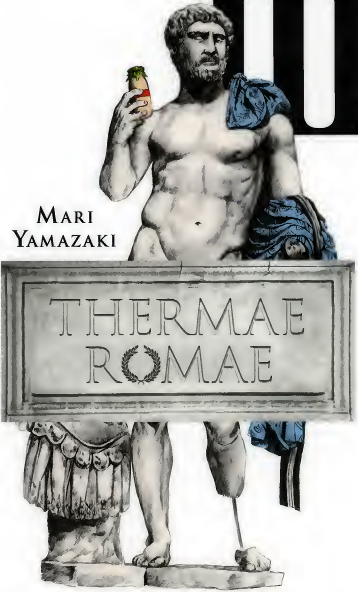
III

MARI
YAMAZAKI

THERMAE ROMAE



A HISTORICAL COMEDY HIGHLIGHTING HISTORY'S MOST PASSIONATE BATH-LOVERS: THE ANCIENT ROMANS AND THE MODERN JAPANESE!

* * *

Though he has been trapped in the twenty-first century for several weeks, Lucius is still amazed at the wondrous innovations of the flat-faced people, and meeting Satsuki has given him an even greater understanding of the things he has seen—not to mention an undeniable flutter in his heart. But despite his curiosity for this land, Lucius worries at the amount of time that has passed since he left Rome. The political atmosphere was already tense after the death of the emperor's heir, and Lucius fears what may befall Rome and the ailing Hadrian in his absence. Yet matters are no less precarious in the hot-springs town of Ito. With aggressive developers bullying the established inns, Lucius may be called upon to save the sacred appreciation of the bath both in the past and in the present in this final volume of **THERMAE ROMAE!**

MARI YAMAZAKI

was born in Tokyo on April 20, 1967. At age seventeen, she moved to Italy, where she started studying drawing at an art school in Florence. Yamazaki made her manga debut in 1996 with an autobiographical look at her life in Italy. After bouncing around between Japan, the Middle East, and Italy, she finally settled down in Lisbon, Portugal, in 2003. In 2008, she began drawing *THERMAE ROMAE* for the monthly magazine *Comic Beam* on an irregular basis, and the first collected volume was a smash hit upon its 2009 release. In 2010, *THERMAE ROMAE* received the Manga Taisho Award 2010 and the 14th Osamu Tezuka Cultural Prize, Short Story Award.

Mari Yamazaki currently lives in Chicago with her Italian husband and their son.

THERMAE ROMAE

MARI YAMAZAKI

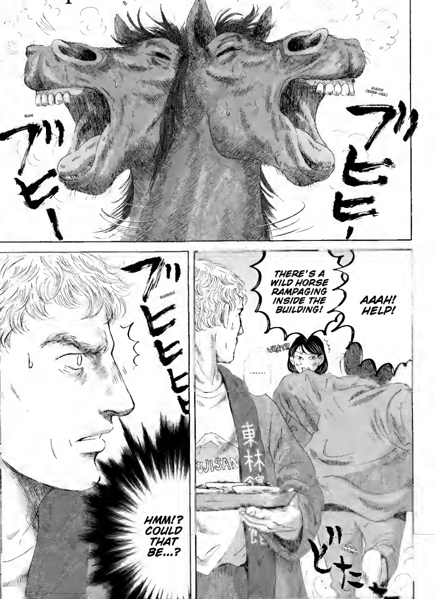
III

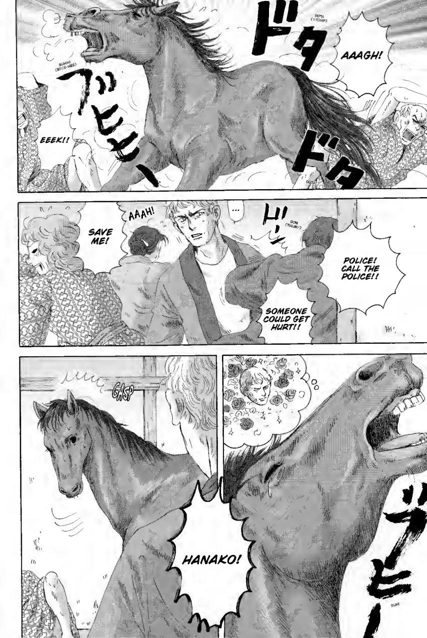
CONTENTS

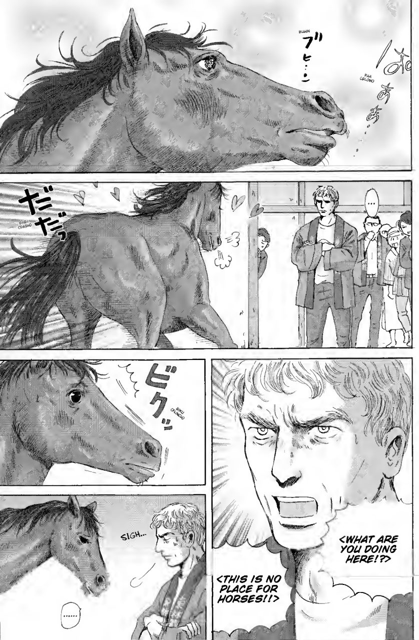
CHAPTER 25 3
CHAPTER 26 27
CHAPTER 27 55
CHAPTER 28 79
CHAPTER 29 107
CHAPTER 30 135
CHAPTER 31 159
CHAPTER 32 191
CHAPTER 33 215
CHAPTER 34 243
CHAPTER 35 267
CHAPTER 36 291
CHAPTER 37 319
FINAL CHAPTER 343

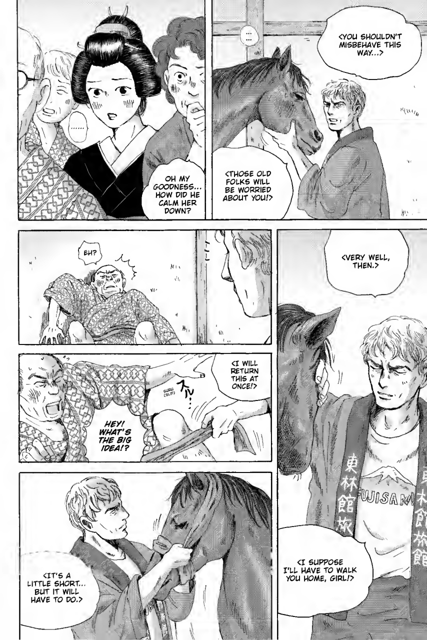
ROME & BATHS,
THE LOVES OF MY LIFE
52, 104, 132, 186, 240, 316, 370

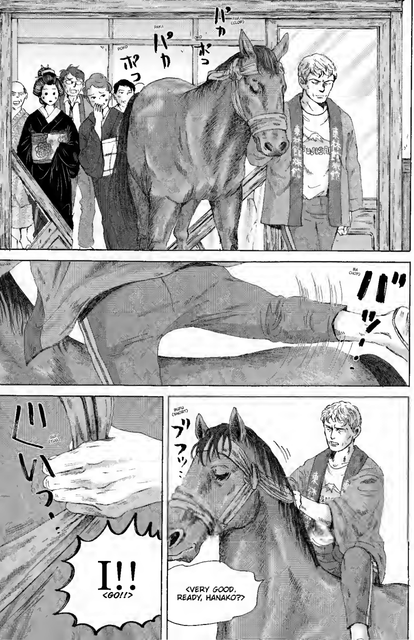
Chapter 25

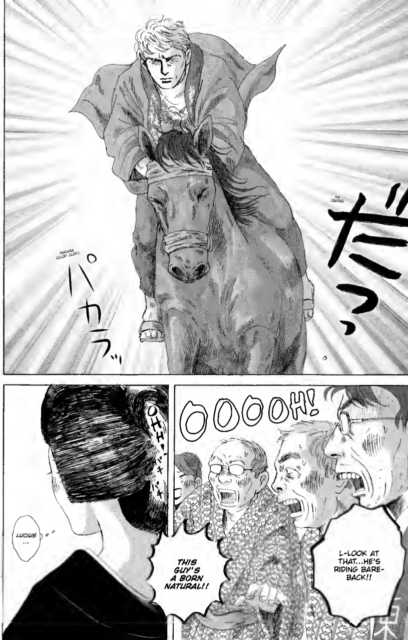

ブヒヒー
BUHIHI (BREE-HEE)
ブヒー
BUHI
THERE'S A WILD HORSE RAMPAGING INSIDE THE BUILDING!
AAAH! HELP!
WHAT?!
......
東林館
FUJISAN
どたっ
DOTATA (STOMP)
ブヒヒヒヒ
BUHIHIHI
HMM!? COULD THAT BE...?

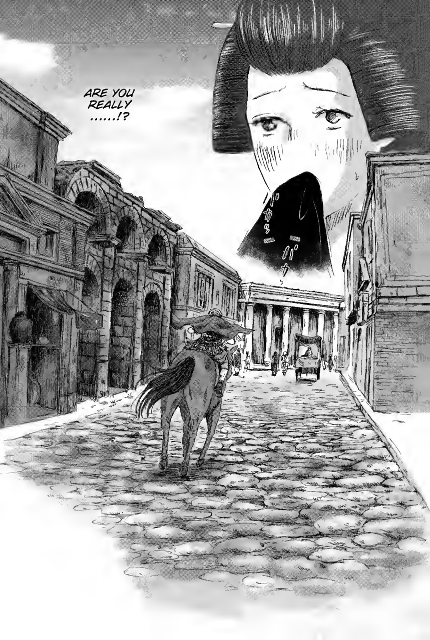

ドタ
DOTA (STOMP)
AAAGH!
ドタ
DOTA
ブヒヒー
BUHIHI (BREE-HEE)
EEEK!!
POLICE! CALL THE POLICE!!
SOMEONE COULD GET HURT!!
ドン
DON (THUMP)
...
AAAH!
SAVE ME!
ブヒー
BUHI
HANAKO!
GASP

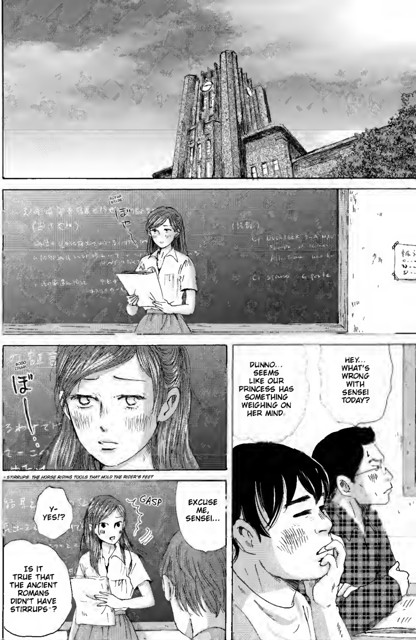

ぱあああ…
PAA (GLOW)
ブヒ…ン
BUHIN
…
だだっ
DADA (DASH)
<WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?>
<THIS IS NO PLACE FOR HORSES!!>
ビクッ
BIKU (FLINCH)
SIGH...
……


......
OH MY GOODNESS... HOW DID HE CALM HER DOWN?
...
<YOU SHOULDN'T MISBEHAVE THIS WAY...>
<THOSE OLD FOLKS WILL BE WORRIED ABOUT YOU!>
EH?
<I WILL RETURN THIS AT ONCE!>
スル
SURU (SLIP)
HEY! WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA!?
<IT'S A LITTLE SHORT... BUT IT WILL HAVE TO DO.>
<VERY WELL, THEN.>
東林館旅
FUJISAN
<I SUPPOSE I'LL HAVE TO WALK YOU HOME, GIRL!>

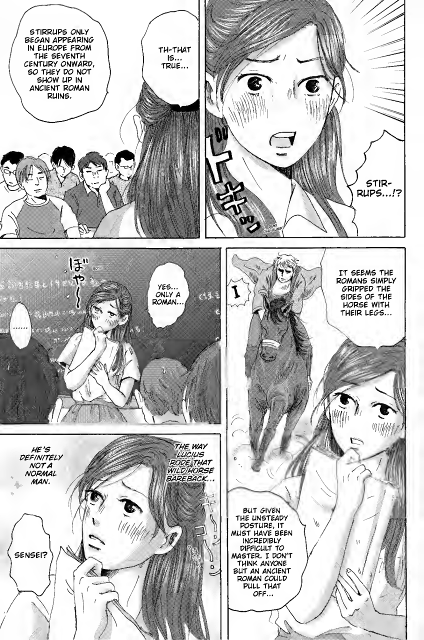

パカ
PAKA (CLOP)
ポっ
OKO
パカ
PAKA
ポっ
POKO
バッ
BA (HOP)
ブフッ
BUFU (SNORT)
<VERY GOOD. READY, HANAKO?>
グいっ
GUI (TUG)
I!!
<GO!!>

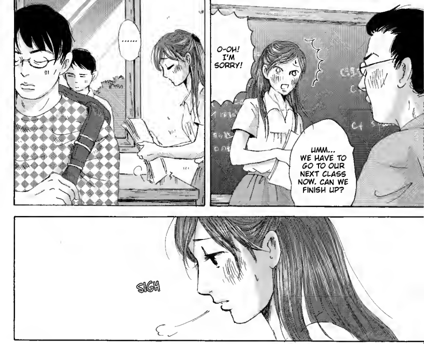

DA (DASH)
だっ
PAKARA (CLOP CLOP)
パカラッ
OOOOH!
L-LOOK AT THAT...HE'S RIDING BAREBACK!!
THIS GUY'S A BORN NATURAL!!
OHH!
PACHI (CLAP)
パチ
PACHI
パチ
LUCIUS ...


ARE YOU REALLY ......!?
パカッ PAKA
パカッ PAKA

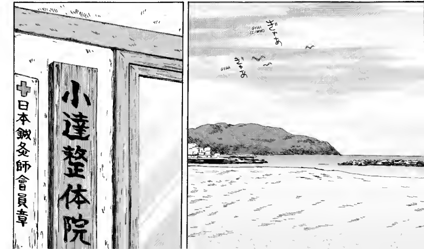

BOYAA (STARE)
ぼやー
HEY... WHAT'S WRONG WITH SENSEI TODAY?
DUNNO... SEEMS LIKE OUR PRINCESS HAS SOMETHING WEIGHING ON HER MIND.
BOOO (DUHH)
ぼー
EXCUSE ME, SENSEI...
GASP
Y-YES!?
IS IT TRUE THAT THE ANCIENT ROMANS DIDN'T HAVE STIRRUPS*?

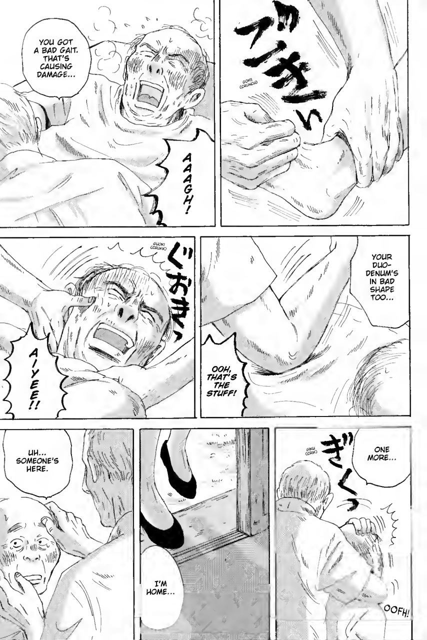
* STIRRUPS: THE HORSE RIDING TOOLS THAT HOLD THE RIDER'S FEET

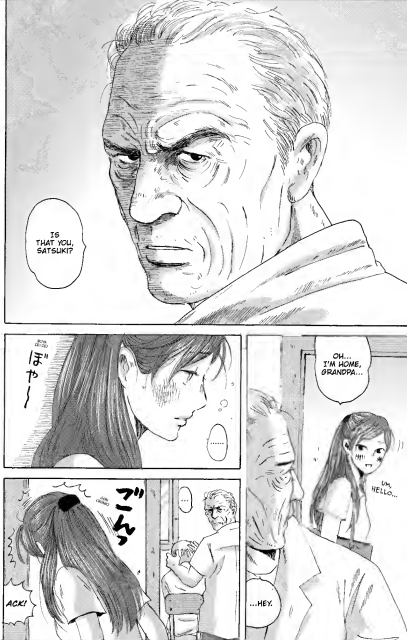

STIR-RUPS...!?
ドキッ
DOKI (BA-BUMP)
TH-THAT IS... TRUE...
STIRRUPS ONLY BEGAN APPEARING IN EUROPE FROM THE SEVENTH CENTURY ONWARD, SO THEY DO NOT SHOW UP IN ANCIENT ROMAN RUINS.
IT SEEMS THE ROMANS SIMPLY GRIPPED THE SIDES OF THE HORSE WITH THEIR LEGS...
I
BUT GIVEN THE UNSTEADY POSTURE, IT MUST HAVE BEEN INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT TO MASTER. I DON'T THINK ANYONE BUT AN ANCIENT ROMAN COULD PULL THAT OFF...
YES... ONLY A ROMAN...
ぼや~
BOYA...
......
THE WAY LUCIUS RODE THAT WILD HORSE BAREBACK...
HE'S DEFINITELY NOT A NORMAL MAN.
キーンコーン
KIN KON (DING DONG)
SENSEI?

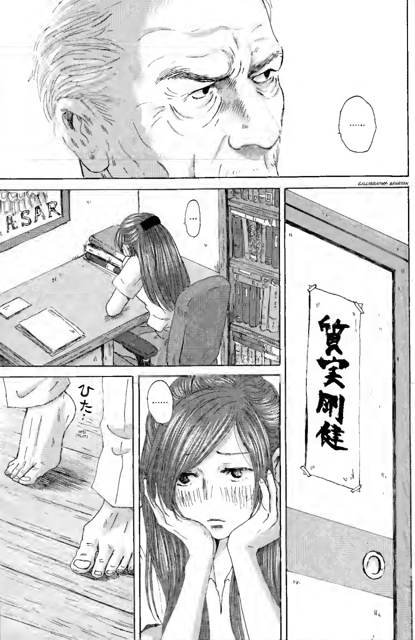

O-OH! I'M SORRY!
UMM... WE HAVE TO GO TO OUR NEXT CLASS NOW. CAN WE FINISH UP?
......
SIGH

LARGE SIGN: ODATE CHIROPRACTIC CENTER
SMALL SIGN: JAPAN SOCIETY OF ACUPUNCTURE AND MOXIBUSTION MEMBER

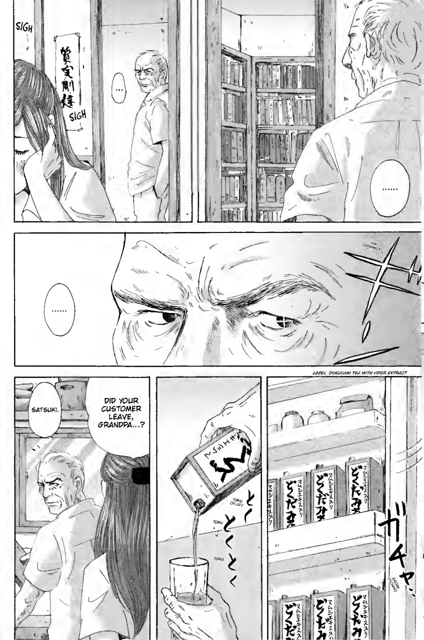

ぎゃあ
GYAA (CAWW)
ぎゃあ
GYAA
小達整体院
日本鍼灸師會員章

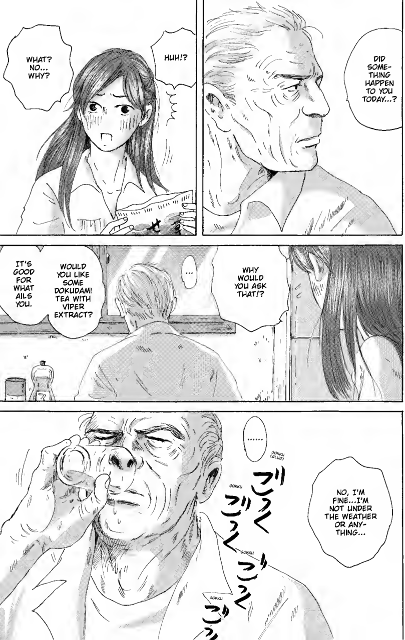

ゴキぃ
GOKI! (CRUNCH)
YOU GOT A BAD GAIT. THAT'S CAUSING DAMAGE...
AAAGH!
YOUR DUODENUM'S IN BAD SHAPE TOO...
OOH, THAT'S THE STUFF!
ぐおきっ
GUOKI (CRUKK)
AIYEE!!
ぎくっ
GIKU (CRIK)
ONE MORE...
OOFH!
I'M HOME...
UH... SOMEONE'S HERE.

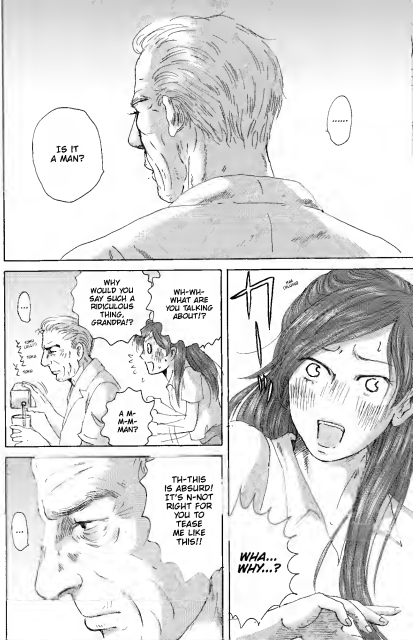

IS THAT YOU, SATSUKI?
OH... I'M HOME, GRANDPA...
UM, HELLO...
...HEY.
BOYA (DAZE)
ぼや～
......
GON (BONK)
ごんっ
...
ACK!

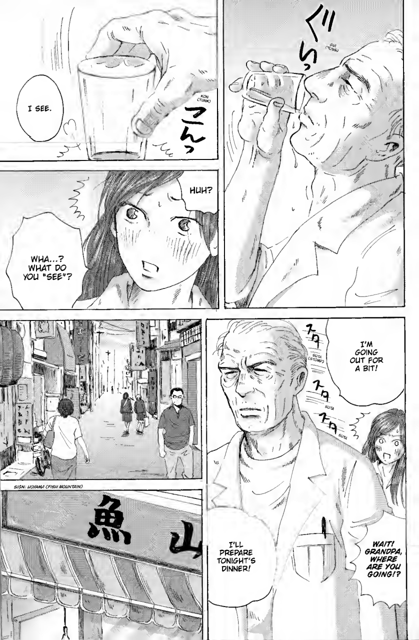

……
質実剛健
…
ÆSAR
……
ひた…
HITA (FLAT)

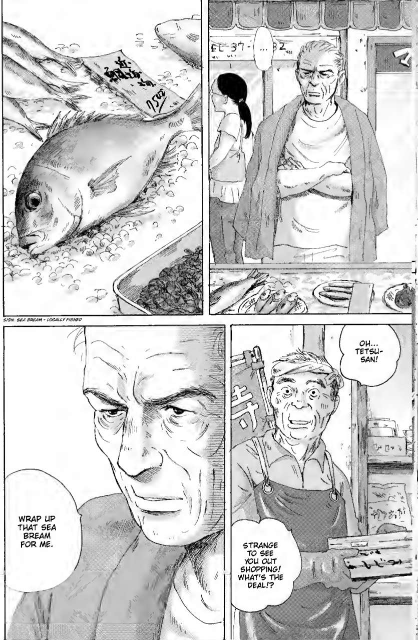
CALLIGRAPHY: SPARTAN

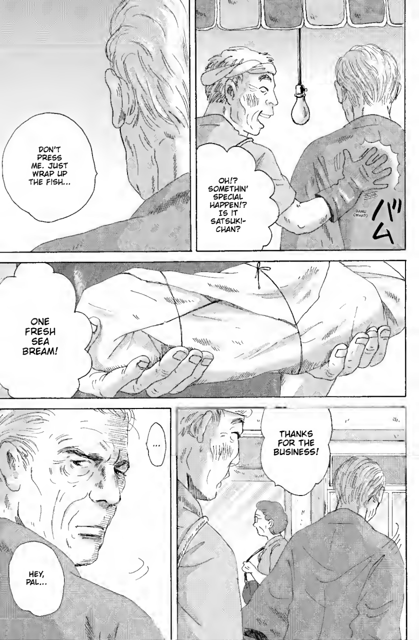

......
...
SIGH
質実剛健
SIGH
GIN (SPARKLE)
......
LABEL: DOKUDAMI TEA WITH VIPER EXTRACT
マムシエキス入り
どくだみ茶
ガチャ
GACHA (CHCHAK)
とく
TOKU (PLUP)
とくとく
TOKU
TOKU
DID YOUR CUSTOMER LEAVE, GRANDPA...?
SATSUKI.

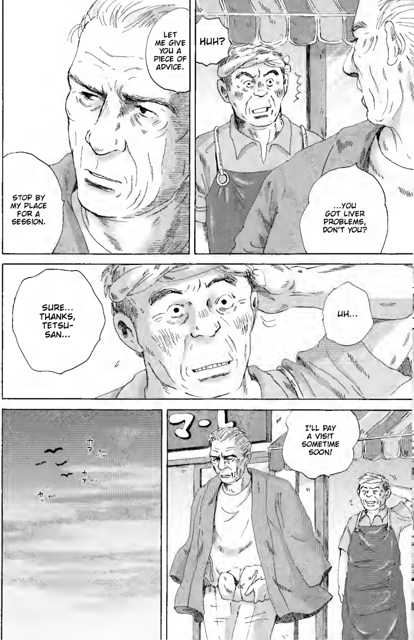

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO YOU TODAY...?
HUH!?
WHAT? NO... WHY?
WHY WOULD YOU ASK THAT!?
...
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME DOKUDAMI TEA WITH VIPER EXTRACT?
IT'S GOOD FOR WHAT AILS YOU.
NO, I'M FINE...I'M NOT UNDER THE WEATHER OR ANYTHING...
......
GOKKU (GLUG)
ごっく
GOKKU
ごっく
GOKKU
ごっく
GOKKU
ごっ

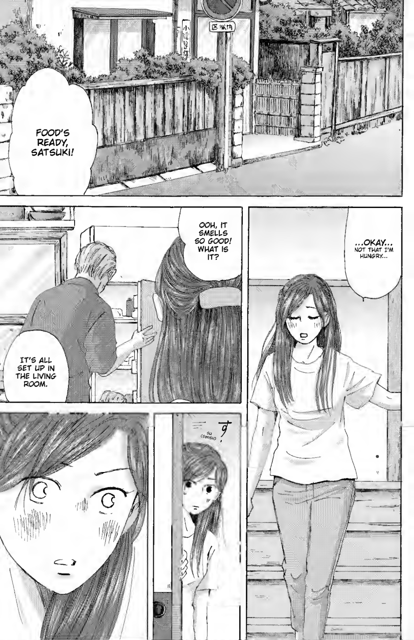

......
IS IT A MAN?
KAA (BLUSH)
WHA... WHY...?
WH-WH- WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
WHY WOULD YOU SAY SUCH A RIDICULOUS THING, GRANDPA!?
....
TOKU (GLUP)
TOKU
TOKU
A M-M-M-MAN?
TH-THIS IS ABSURD! IT'S N-NOT RIGHT FOR YOU TO TEASE ME LIKE THIS!!
...

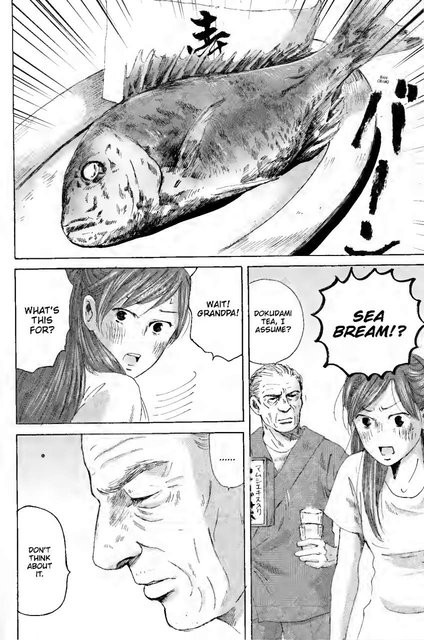

ぐいっ
GUI (TUSS)
こんっ
KON (TUNK)
I SEE.
HUH?
WHA...? WHAT DO YOU "SEE"?
スタ
SUTA (STOMP)
I'M GOING OUT FOR A BIT!
スタ
SUTA
スタ
SUTA
I'LL PREPARE TONIGHT'S DINNER!
WAIT! GRANDPA, WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?
SIGN: UOYAMA (FISH MOUNTAIN)
魚山

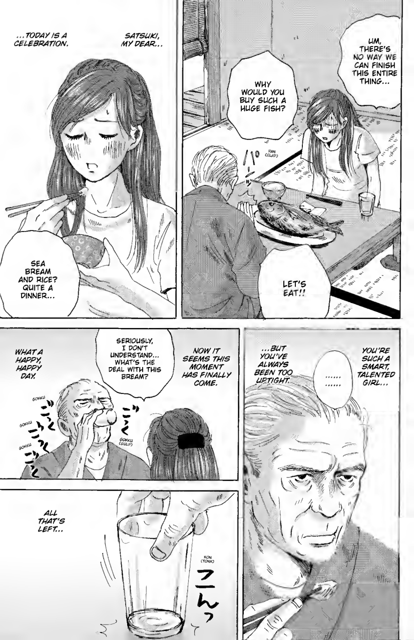

...
SIGN: SEA BREAM - LOCALLY FISHED
OH... TETSU-SAN!
STRANGE TO SEE YOU OUT SHOPPING! WHAT'S THE DEAL!?
WRAP UP THAT SEA BREAM FOR ME.

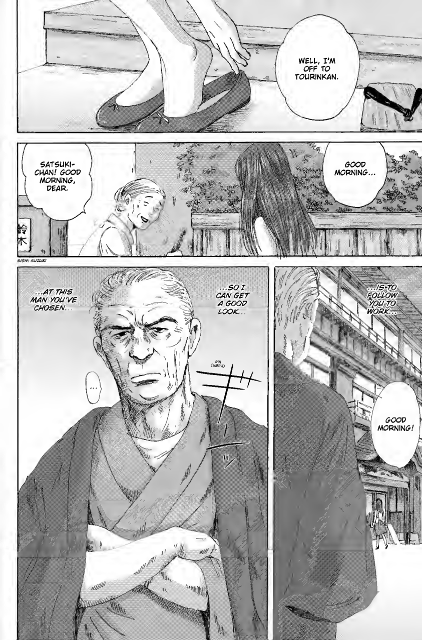

OH!? SOMETHIN' SPECIAL HAPPEN!? IS IT SATSUKI-CHAN?
BAMU (WHAP)
バム
DON'T PRESS ME. JUST WRAP UP THE FISH...
ONE FRESH SEA BREAM!
THANKS FOR THE BUSINESS!
...
HEY, PAL...


HUH?
...YOU GOT LIVER PROBLEMS, DON'T YOU?
LET ME GIVE YOU A PIECE OF ADVICE.
STOP BY MY PLACE FOR A SESSION.
UH...
SURE... THANKS, TETSU-SAN...
I'LL PAY A VISIT SOMETIME SOON!
カァ KAA (CAW)
カァ KAA
カァ KAA

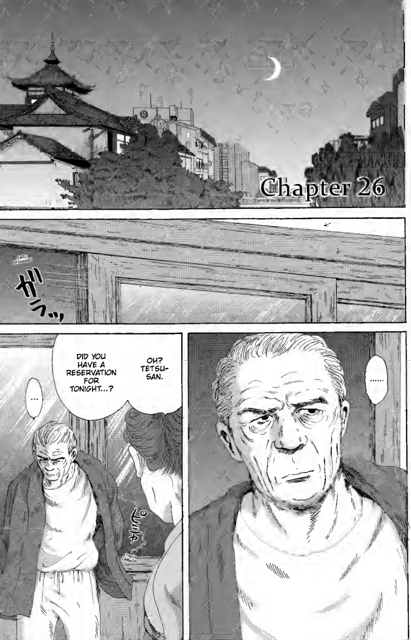

区域内
FOOD'S READY, SATSUKI!
...OKAY... NOT THAT I'M HUNGRY...
OOH, IT SMELLS SO GOOD! WHAT IS IT?
IT'S ALL SET UP IN THE LIVING ROOM.
す
SU (SWISH)

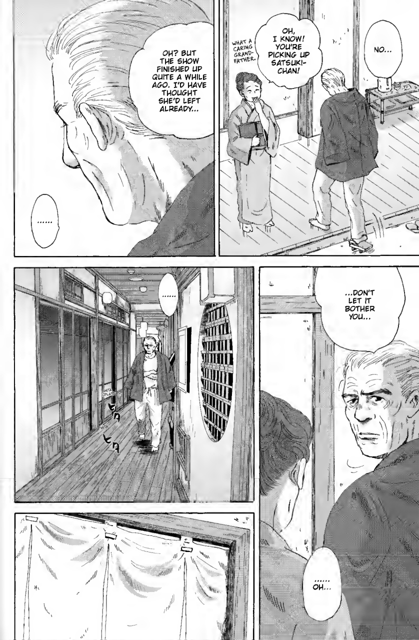

寿
BAN (BAM)
バン!
SEA BREAM!?
DOKUDAMI TEA, I ASSUME?
マムシエキス入り
WAIT! GRANDPA!
WHAT'S THIS FOR?
......
DON'T THINK ABOUT IT.

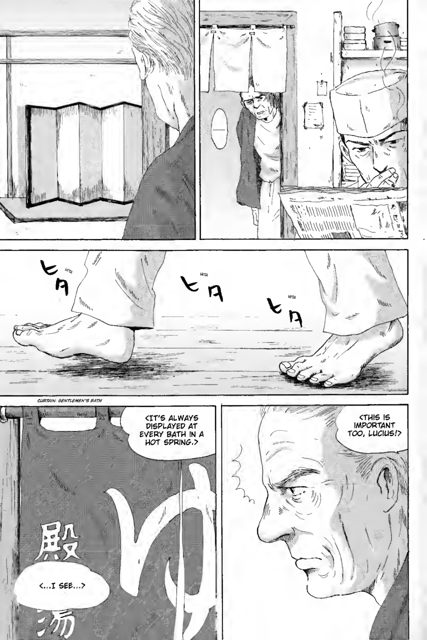

UM, THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN FINISH THIS ENTIRE THING...
WHY WOULD YOU BUY SUCH A HUGE FISH?
PAN (CLAP)
LET'S EAT!!
SATSUKI, MY DEAR...
...TODAY IS A CELEBRATION.
SEA BREAM AND RICE? QUITE A DINNER...
YOU'RE SUCH A SMART, TALENTED GIRL...
......
......
...BUT YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN TOO UPTIGHT.
NOW IT SEEMS THIS MOMENT HAS FINALLY COME.
SERIOUSLY, I DON'T UNDERSTAND... WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THIS BREAM?
WHAT A HAPPY, HAPPY DAY.
GOKKU (GULP)
GOKKU
GOKKU
GOKKU
ALL THAT'S LEFT...
KON (TONK)
こんっ

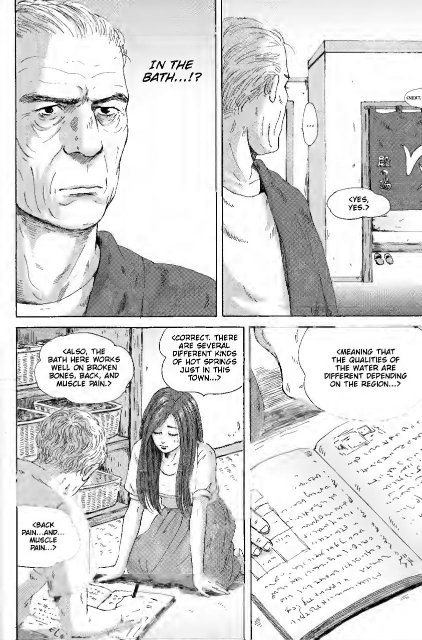

WELL, I'M OFF TO TOURINKAN.
GOOD MORNING...
SATSUKI-CHAN! GOOD MORNING, DEAR.
鈴木
SIGN: SUZUKI
...IS TO FOLLOW YOU TO WORK...
GOOD MORNING!
...SO I CAN GET A GOOD LOOK...
...AT THIS MAN YOU'VE CHOSEN...
...
GIN CHAPIO

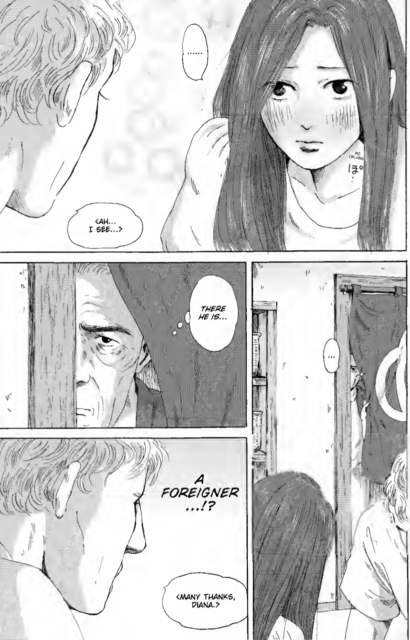
Chapter 26

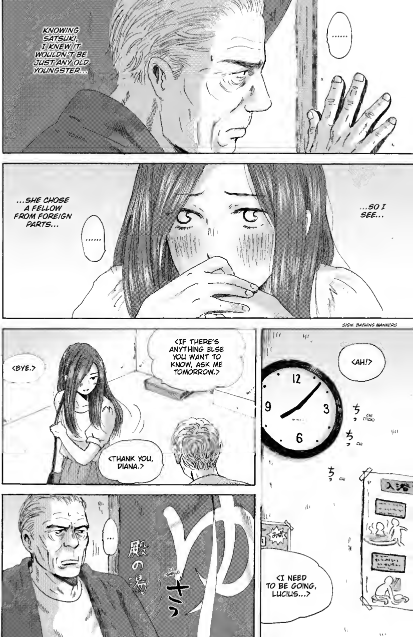

GARA (KSHUNK)
ガラッ
OH? TETSU-SAN.
DID YOU HAVE A RESERVATION FOR TONIGHT...?
...
ピシャ
PISHA (SMACK)
......


NO...
OH, I KNOW! YOU'RE PICKING UP SATSUKI-CHAN!
WHAT A CARING GRAND-FATHER.
OH? BUT THE SHOW FINISHED UP QUITE A WHILE AGO. I'D HAVE THOUGHT SHE'D LEFT ALREADY...
......
...DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU...
...... OH...
......
HITA (PLAT) ヒタ
HITA ヒタ

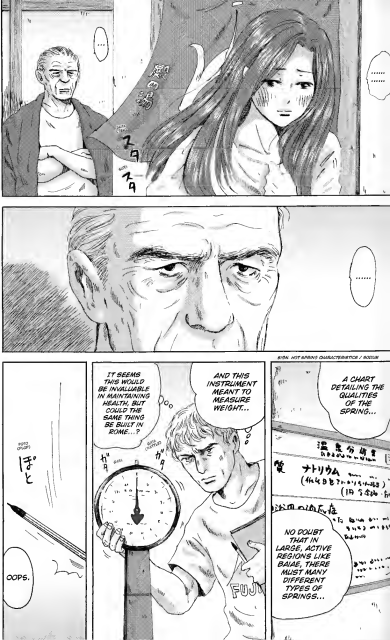

......
ヒタ HITA
ヒタ HITA
ヒタ HITA
<THIS IS IMPORTANT TOO, LUCIUS!>
CURTAIN: GENTLEMEN'S BATH
<IT'S ALWAYS DISPLAYED AT EVERY BATH IN A HOT SPRING.>
殿
湯
<...I SEE...>

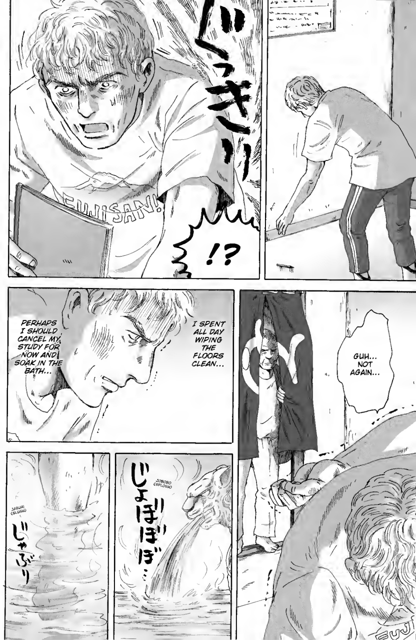

<NEXT.
殿の湯
...
<YES, YES.>
IN THE BATH...!?
<MEANING THAT THE QUALITIES OF THE WATER ARE DIFFERENT DEPENDING ON THE REGION...>
<CORRECT. THERE ARE SEVERAL DIFFERENT KINDS OF HOT SPRINGS JUST IN THIS TOWN...>
<ALSO, THE BATH HERE WORKS WELL ON BROKEN BONES, BACK, AND MUSCLE PAIN.>
<BACK PAIN...AND... MUSCLE PAIN...>

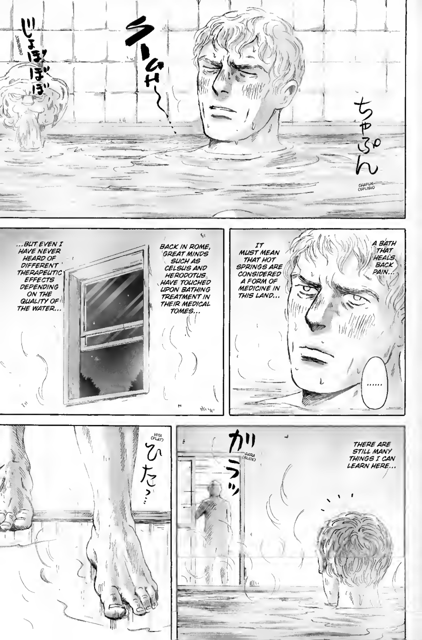

......
PO (BLUSH)
ぽ
<AH... I SEE...>
...
THERE HE IS...
A FOREIGNER ...!?
<MANY THANKS, DIANA.>

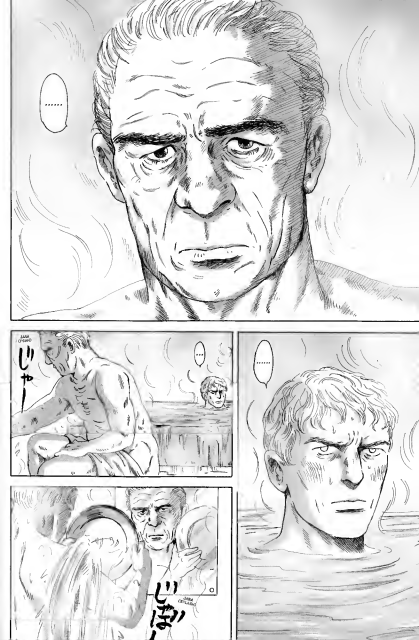

......
KNOWING SATSUKI, I KNEW IT WOULDN'T BE JUST ANY OLD YOUNGSTER...
...SO I SEE...
......
...SHE CHOSE A FELLOW FROM FOREIGN PARTS...
<AH!>
ちっ CHI (TICK)
ちっ CHI
ちっ CHI
入浴
<I NEED TO BE GOING, LUCIUS...>
<IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO KNOW, ASK ME TOMORROW.>
<THANK YOU, DIANA.>
<BYE.>
...
ゆ
殿の湯
さっ SA (SWISH)

SIGN: BATHING MANNERS


……
……
殿の湯
SUTA (TEK)
スタ
SUTA
スタ
...
……
SIGN: HOT SPRING CHARACTERISTICS / SODIUM
A CHART DETAILING THE QUALITIES OF THE SPRING...
温泉分析書
ナトリウム
NO DOUBT THAT IN LARGE, ACTIVE REGIONS LIKE BAIAE, THERE MUST MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF SPRINGS...
AND THIS INSTRUMENT MEANT TO MEASURE WEIGHT...
IT SEEMS THIS WOULD BE INVALUABLE IN MAINTAINING HEALTH, BUT COULD THE SAME THING BE BUILT IN ROME...?
GATA (RATTLE)
ガタ
GATA
ガタ
FUJI
POTO (PLOP)
ぽと
OOPS.

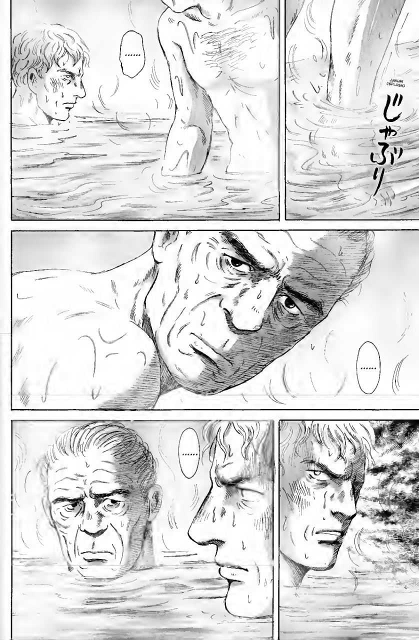

ぐっきり
GUKKIRI (KA-GRAK)
FUJISAN!
!?
GUH... NOT AGAIN...
I SPENT ALL DAY WIPING THE FLOORS CLEAN...
PERHAPS I SHOULD CANCEL MY STUDY FOR NOW AND SOAK IN THE BATH...
FUJ
じょぼぼぼ…
JOBOBO (SPLOSH)
じゃぶり
JABURI (SLUSH)

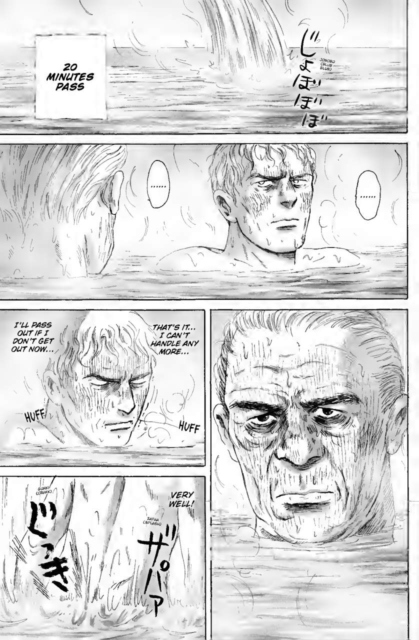

ちゃぷん
CHAPUN (SPLISH)
ふーむH〜…
じょぼぼぼ
JOBOBOBO
A BATH THAT HEALS BACK PAIN...
IT MUST MEAN THAT HOT SPRINGS ARE CONSIDERED A FORM OF MEDICINE IN THIS LAND...
......
BACK IN ROME, GREAT MINDS SUCH AS CELSUS AND HERODOTUS HAVE TOUCHED UPON BATHING TREATMENT IN THEIR MEDICAL TOMES...
...BUT EVEN I HAVE NEVER HEARD OF DIFFERENT THERAPEUTIC EFFECTS DEPENDING ON THE QUALITY OF THE WATER...
THERE ARE STILL MANY THINGS I CAN LEARN HERE...
ガラッ
GARA (SLIDE)
ひた…
HITA (PLAT)


……
……
JAAA (FSHH)
じゃー
...
JABA (SPLASH)
じゃば

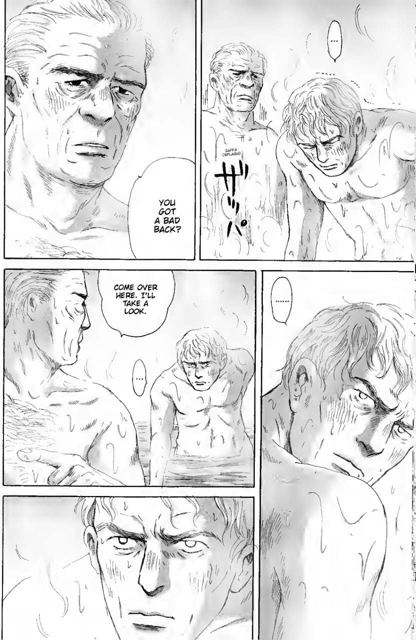
BASIN: KERORIN

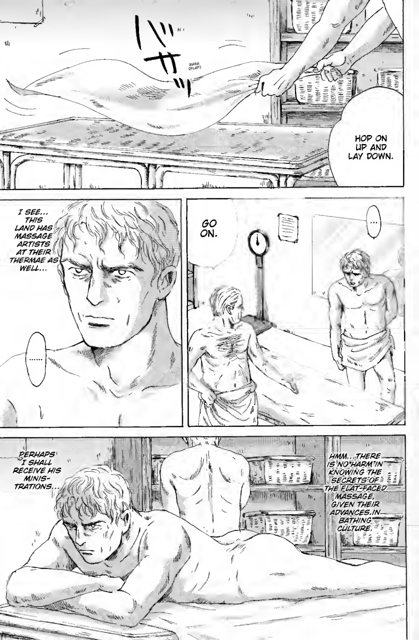
……
…
ツカ
TSUKA (STEP)
ツカ
TSUKA
…
ス…
SU (SHH)

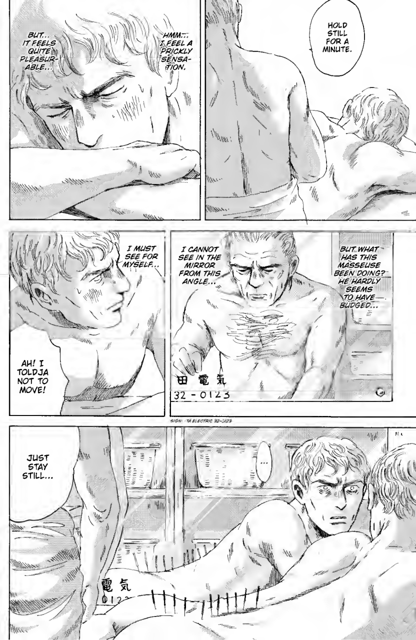

JABURI (SPLUSH)
じゃぶり
……
……
……



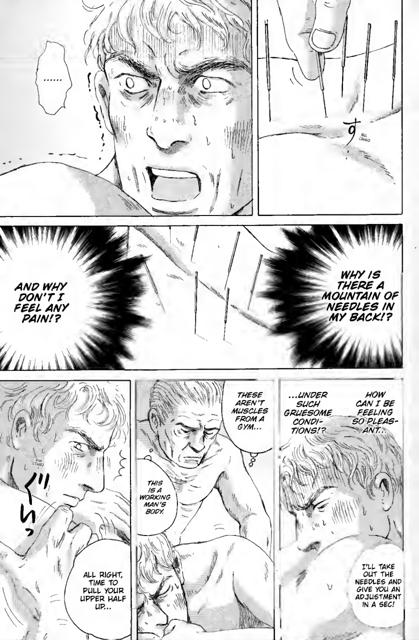
20 MINUTES PASS
じょぼぼぼ
JOBOBO (BLUB BLUB)
......
......
THAT'S IT... I CAN'T HANDLE ANY MORE...
I'LL PASS OUT IF I DON'T GET OUT NOW...
HUFF
HUFF
VERY WELL!
ザパァ
ZAPAA (SPLASH)
じっき
GUKKI (CRAKK)

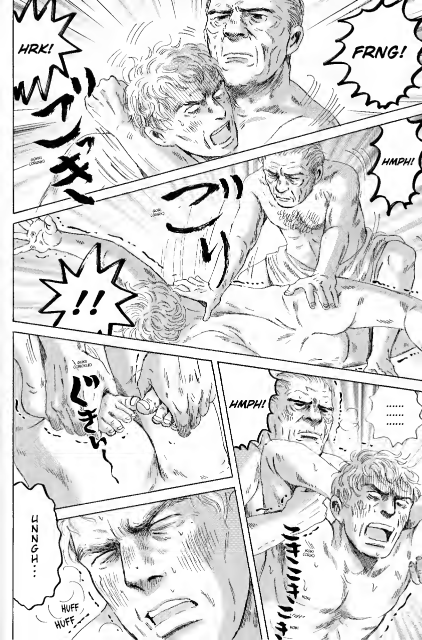

...
ZAPPA (SPLASH)
ザッパ
YOU GOT A BAD BACK?
......
COME OVER HERE. I'LL TAKE A LOOK.
...

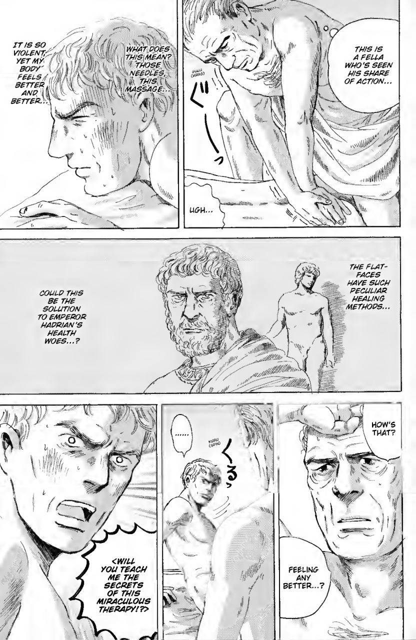

バサッ
BASA (FLAP)
HOP ON UP AND LAY DOWN.
...
GO ON.
I SEE... THIS LAND HAS MASSAGE ARTISTS AT THEIR THERMAE AS WELL...
......
HMM...THERE IS NO HARM IN KNOWING THE SECRETS OF THE FLAT-FACED MASSAGE, GIVEN THEIR ADVANCES IN BATHING CULTURE.
PERHAPS I SHALL RECEIVE HIS MINISTRATIONS...

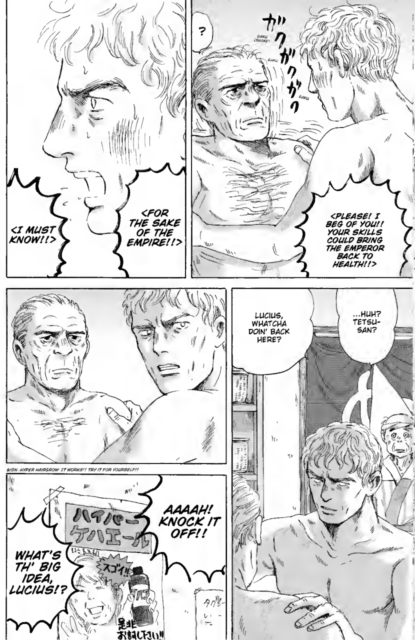

HOLD STILL FOR A MINUTE.
HMM... I FEEL A PRICKLY SENSATION.
BUT... IT FEELS QUITE PLEASURABLE...
BUT WHAT HAS THIS MASSEUSE BEEN DOING? HE HARDLY SEEMS TO HAVE BUDGED...
I CANNOT SEE IN THE MIRROR FROM THIS ANGLE...
田電気
32 - 0123
I MUST SEE FOR MYSELF...
AH! I TOLDJA NOT TO MOVE!
...
JUST STAY STILL...
電気
0123

SIGN: -TA ELECTRIC 32-0123

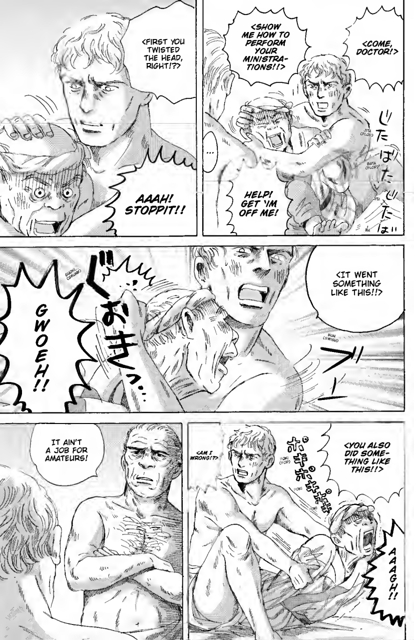

す
SUU (SHH)
......
WHY IS THERE A MOUNTAIN OF NEEDLES IN MY BACK!?
AND WHY DON'T I FEEL ANY PAIN!?
HOW CAN I BE FEELING SO PLEASANT...
...UNDER SUCH GRUESOME CONDITIONS!?
I'LL TAKE OUT THE NEEDLES AND GIVE YOU AN ADJUSTMENT IN A SEC!
THESE AREN'T MUSCLES FROM A GYM...
THIS IS A WORKING MAN'S BODY.
ぐいっ
GUI (TUG)
ALL RIGHT, TIME TO PULL YOUR UPPER HALF UP...

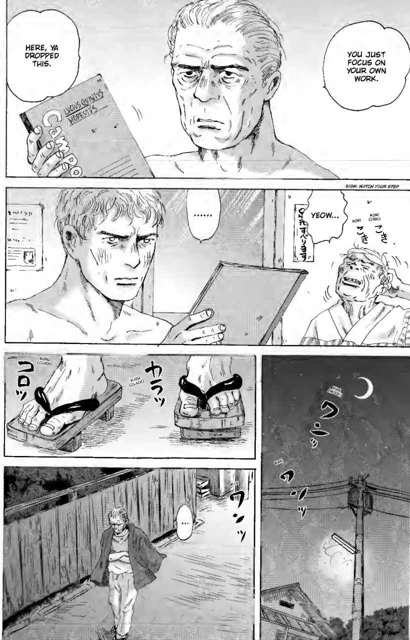

FRNG!
HRK!
ゴキッ
GOKKI (CRUNK)
HMPH!
ゴリ
GORI (GRIK)
!!
HMPH!
......
......
......
こきこきこき
KOKI (CRIK)
KOKI
KOKI
GUKI (CRACKLE)
ぐきぃ
UNNGH...
HUFF
HUFF

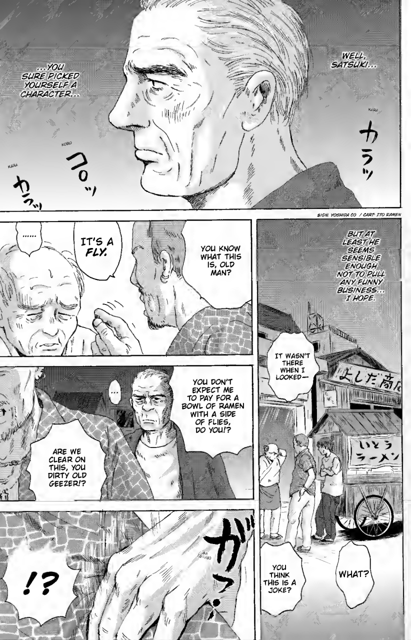

THIS IS A FELLA WHO'S SEEN HIS SHARE OF ACTION...
GUUU (CHURG)
ぐーっ
UGH...
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? THOSE NEEDLES, THIS MASSAGE...
IT IS SO VIOLENT, YET MY BODY FEELS BETTER AND BETTER...
THE FLAT-FACES HAVE SUCH PECULIAR HEALING METHODS...
COULD THIS BE THE SOLUTION TO EMPEROR HADRIAN'S HEALTH WOES...?
HOW'S THAT?
FEELING ANY BETTER...?
......
KURU (SPIN)
くるっ
<WILL YOU TEACH ME THE SECRETS OF THIS MIRACULOUS THERAPY!?>

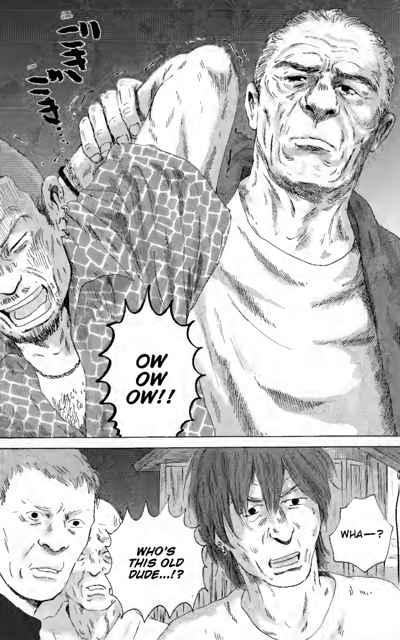

?
ガクガクガクガク
GAKU (SHAKE)
GAKU
GAKU
<PLEASE! I BEG OF YOU!! YOUR SKILLS COULD BRING THE EMPEROR BACK TO HEALTH!!>
<FOR THE SAKE OF THE EMPIRE!!>
<I MUST KNOW!!>
...HUH? TETSU-SAN?
LUCIUS, WHATCHA DOIN' BACK HERE?
ハイパーケハエール
スゴイ!!
是非お試し下さい!!
AAAAH! KNOCK IT OFF!!
WHAT'S TH' BIG IDEA, LUCIUS!?

SIGN: HYPER HAIRGROW- IT WORKS!! TRY IT FOR YOURSELF!!


<COME, DOCTOR!>
<SHOW ME HOW TO PERFORM YOUR MINISTRATIONS!!>
...
HELP! GET 'IM OFF ME!
じたばた じたばた
JITA (FLOP)
BATA (FLOP)
<FIRST YOU TWISTED THE HEAD, RIGHT!?>
AAAH! STOPPIT!!
<IT WENT SOMETHING LIKE THIS!!>
BUN (SWISH)
ぐおきっ
GUOKI... (GRUNK)
GWOEH!!
<YOU ALSO DID SOMETHING LIKE THIS!!>
ポキポキポキ
POKI (POP)
<AM I WRONG!?>
AAAGH!!
IT AIN'T A JOB FOR AMATEURS!


YOU JUST FOCUS ON YOUR OWN WORK.
HERE, YA DROPPED THIS.
LVCIVS QVINTVS MODESTVS
SIGN: WATCH YOUR STEP
ぬれすべります
YEOW...
こき
KOKI (CRIK)
こき
KOKI
......
ワンッ
WAN (WOOF)
ワンッ
WAN
カラッ
KARA (CLACK)
コロッ
KORO (CLOCK)
ワンッ
WAN
...


WELL, SATSUKI...
...YOU SURE PICKED YOURSELF A CHARACTER...
KARA
カラッ
KORO
コロッ
KARA
カラッ
SIGN: YOSHIDA CO / CART: ITO RAMEN
BUT AT LEAST HE SEEMS SENSIBLE ENOUGH NOT TO PULL ANY FUNNY BUSINESS... I HOPE.
IT WASN'T THERE WHEN I LOOKED—
よした商店
いとうラーメン
WHAT?
YOU THINK THIS IS A JOKE?
YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS, OLD MAN?
IT'S A *FLY.*
......
YOU DON'T EXPECT ME TO PAY FOR A BOWL OF RAMEN WITH A SIDE OF FLIES, DO YOU!?
...
ARE WE CLEAR ON THIS, YOU DIRTY OLD GEEZER!?
GA (GRAB)
ガッ
!?


GOKI CRIK
ゴキ
GOKI
ごき…
OW OW OW!!
WHA—?
WHO'S THIS OLD DUDE...!?

ROME & BATHS, THE LOVES OF MY LIFE

When I started this manga, I was hoping for a grand total of five hundred fans in the entire country, and now here we are in the fifth volume.

I ended the fourth volume with the "cliffhanger" of the old nag Hanako bursting into the inn looking for her beloved Lucius, but after reading Chapter 25, I wonder if some of you might have picked up on what I really wanted to end the book with. Yes, in my heart, I consider the true finale to be the scene in which Satsuki witnesses Lucius gracefully riding Hanako bareback, finally recognizing that this mysterious man may indeed be a Roman. However, due to facts of life such as page limits, an author cannot always end her book at the point she would prefer.

So, has anyone tried riding bareback before?

As a matter of fact, I have. I was forced into it while volunteering in Cuba, and with the perspective of personal experience, I can say that it's about as reckless and dangerous as riding an ostrich or a giraffe. Even given the reins and bit that might give the rider some amount of control over the horse, it's incredibly difficult for a human being to remain straight and balanced on the back of a horse without stirrups to keep the feet fixed in place.

Horses have played a major part in human culture for ages, from transport to warfare. In China, for example, where bows were a major military weapon, saddles and stirrups were an early invention. However, Europe did not adopt widespread stirrup use until the Middle Ages. Apparently, this development is tied to changes in the size of the horse itself.

Marcus Aurelius depicted on horseback.

A fashionable bit from the fourth century BC.

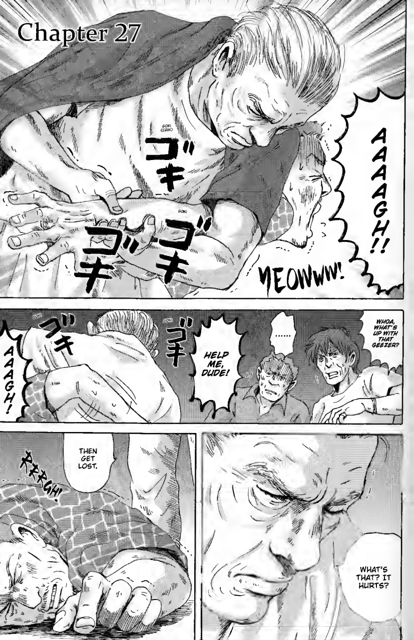
In fact, the horses in the days of the ancient Romans were far smaller than today's thoroughbreds, and as you can see from the statue of Marcus Aurelius on horseback, it hardly comes up to his shoulder. Horses were bred larger and stronger over time, but in Lucius' day, most horses were of a smaller stock from Maremma, around Grosseto, in the Tuscany region.

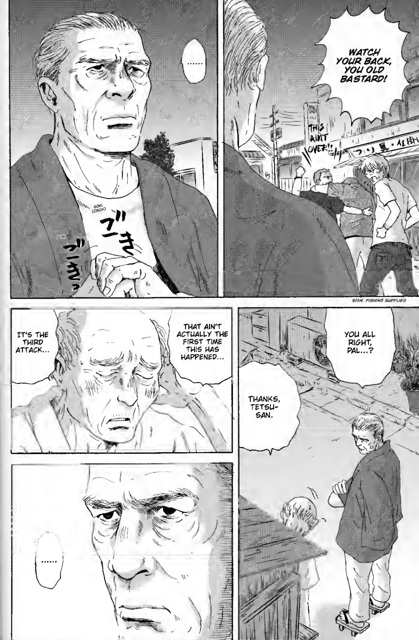
Perhaps riding a smaller horse makes balancing on its back an easier task. One theory postulates that stirrups were developed not just to maintain balance but also as a step to make it easier to vault onto the horse's back. With the smaller stature of the Roman horses, this might explain why the concept of stirrups never arose in that culture. Regardless of the reason, it would have been incredibly taxing to travel long distances by horse in that day. Due to that fact, riding speed never reached the level of a full gallop.

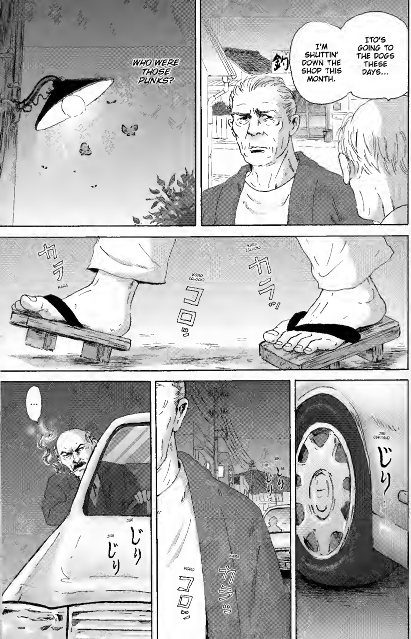
In movie scenes depicting ancient Romans riding into battle or across the landscape, they race about with blinding speed, but in reality, such breakneck riding did not occur. Time moved at a more leisurely pace in Rome than we are inclined to imagine.

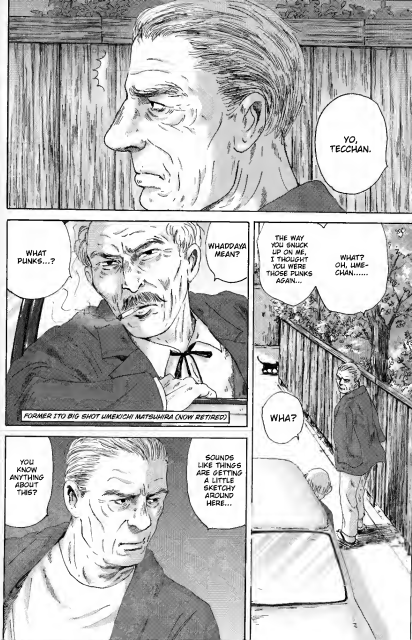
Rome's mini-horses required no stirrups.

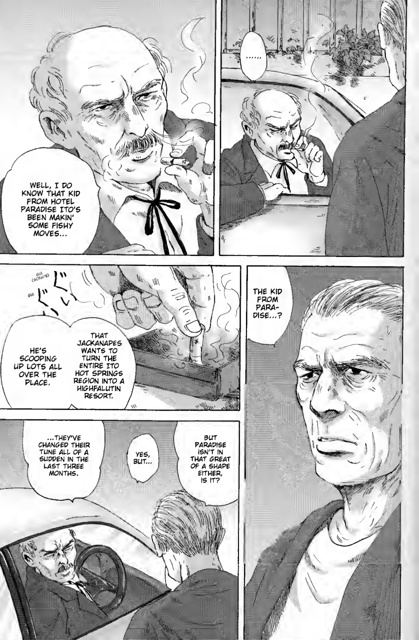
Chapter 27

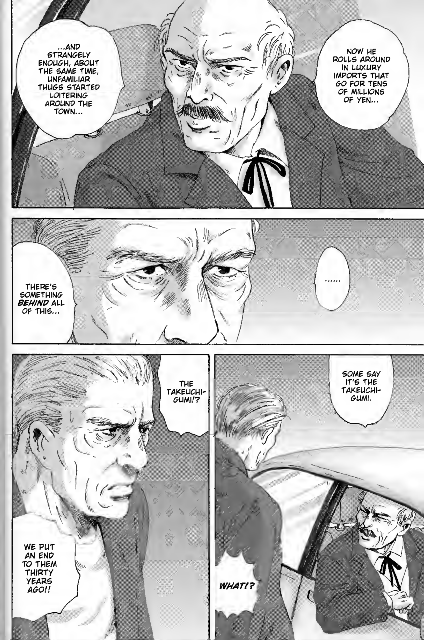

AAAAAGH!!
YEOWWW!
GOKI (CRIK)
ゴキ
GOKI
ゴキ
GOKI
ゴキ
WHOA, WHAT'S UP WITH THAT GEEZER?
......
HELP ME, DUDE!
GOKI
ゴキ
GOKI
ゴキ
AAAAGH!
WHAT'S THAT? IT HURTS?
THEN GET LOST.
RRRGH!

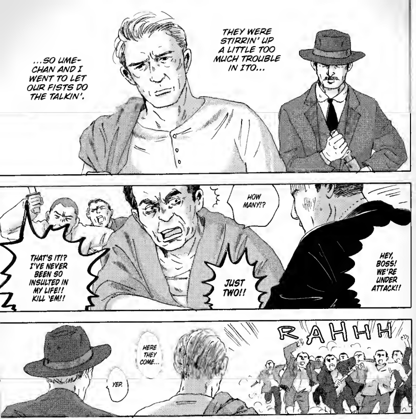

WATCH YOUR BACK, YOU OLD BASTARD!
THIS AIN'T OVER!!
つり具・仕掛
SIGN: FISHING SUPPLIES
......
GOKI (CRICK)
ゴキ
GOKI
ゴキッ
YOU ALL RIGHT, PAL...?
THANKS, TETSU-SAN.
THAT AIN'T ACTUALLY THE FIRST TIME THIS HAS HAPPENED...
IT'S THE THIRD ATTACK...
......


ITO'S GOING TO THE DOGS THESE DAYS...
I'M SHUTTIN' DOWN THE SHOP THIS MONTH.
釣
WHO WERE THOSE PUNKS?
カラ
KARA (CLACK)
コロ
KORO (CLOCK)
カラ
KARA
じり
JIRI (SKRISH)
じり じり
JIRI
JIRI
カラ
KARA
コロ
KORO
...
じり じり
JIRI
JIRI

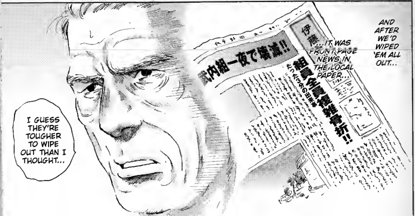

YO, TECCHAN.
WHAT? OH, UME-CHAN......
THE WAY YOU SNUCK UP ON ME, I THOUGHT YOU WERE THOSE PUNKS AGAIN...
WHA?
WHADDAYA MEAN?
WHAT PUNKS...?
FORMER ITO BIG SHOT UMEKICHI MATSUHIRA (NOW RETIRED)
SOUNDS LIKE THINGS ARE GETTING A LITTLE SKETCHY AROUND HERE...
YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?

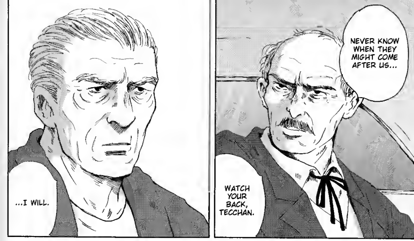

......
WELL, I DO KNOW THAT KID FROM HOTEL PARADISE ITO'S BEEN MAKIN' SOME FISHY MOVES...
THE KID FROM PARADISE...?
GUI (SCRAPE) ぐい
GUI ぐい
THAT JACKANAPES WANTS TO TURN THE ENTIRE ITO HOT SPRINGS REGION INTO A HIGHFALUTIN RESORT.
HE'S SCOOPING UP LOTS ALL OVER THE PLACE.
BUT PARADISE ISN'T IN THAT GREAT OF A SHAPE EITHER, IS IT?
YES, BUT...
...THEY'VE CHANGED THEIR TUNE ALL OF A SUDDEN IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS.

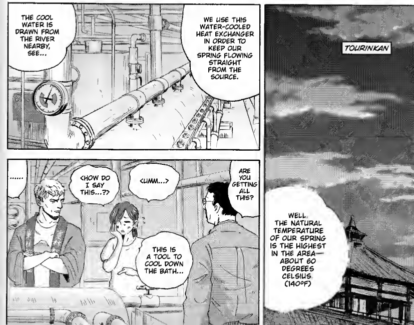

NOW HE ROLLS AROUND IN LUXURY IMPORTS THAT GO FOR TENS OF MILLIONS OF YEN...
...AND STRANGELY ENOUGH, ABOUT THE SAME TIME, UNFAMILIAR THUGS STARTED LOITERING AROUND THE TOWN...
......
THERE'S SOMETHING *BEHIND* ALL OF THIS...
SOME SAY IT'S THE TAKEUCHI-GUMI.
WHAT!?
THE TAKEUCHI-GUMI!?
WE PUT AN END TO THEM THIRTY YEARS AGO!!

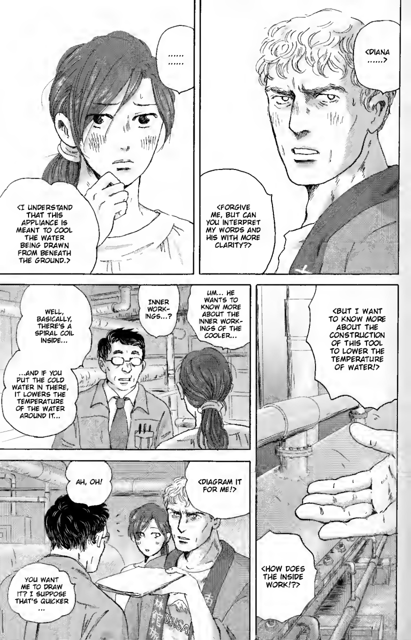

THEY WERE STIRRIN' UP A LITTLE TOO MUCH TROUBLE IN ITO...
...SO UME-CHAN AND I WENT TO LET OUR FISTS DO THE TALKIN'.
HEY, BOSS! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!!
HOW MANY!?
JUST TWO!!
THAT'S IT!? I'VE NEVER BEEN SO INSULTED IN MY LIFE!! KILL 'EM!!
RAHHH
HERE THEY COME...
YEP.

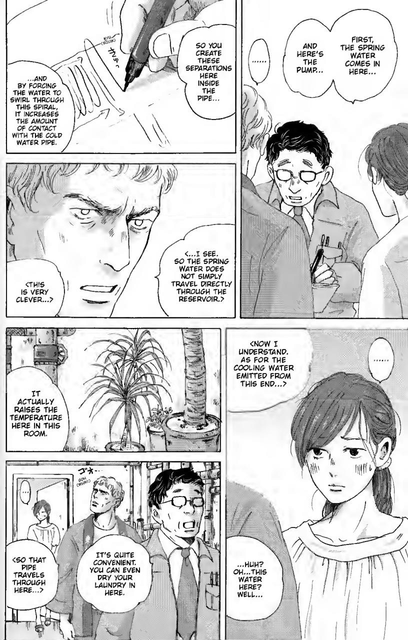
PAPER: ITO TRIBUNE: TAKEUCHI-GUMI CRUSHED IN A SINGLE NIGHT!! ALL MEMBERS SUFFER COMPOUND FRACTURES!! IT LASTED JUST THREE MINUTES.

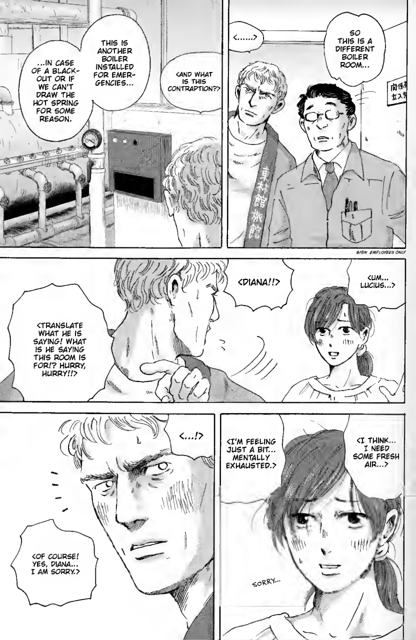

AND AFTER WE'D WIPED 'EM ALL OUT...
...IT WAS FRONT PAGE NEWS IN THE LOCAL PAPER...
伊藤
武内組一夜で壊滅!!
組員全員複雑骨折!!
たった3分の出来事
I GUESS THEY'RE TOUGHER TO WIPE OUT THAN I THOUGHT...

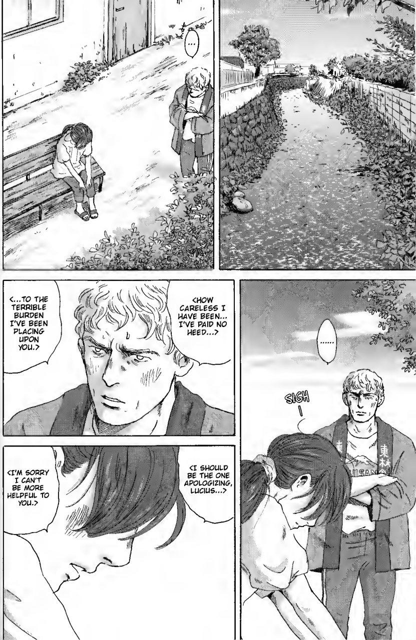

NEVER KNOW WHEN THEY MIGHT COME AFTER US...
WATCH YOUR BACK, TECCHAN.
...I WILL.

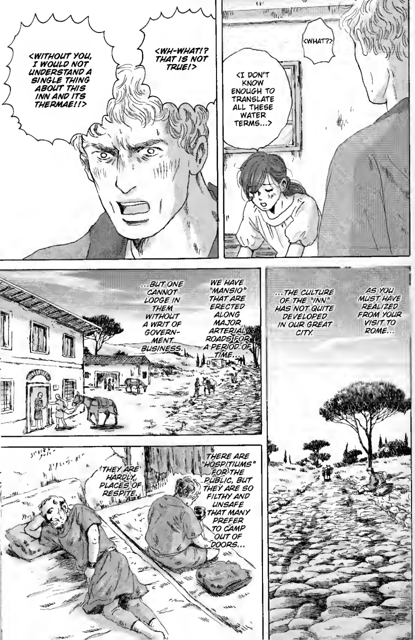

TOURINKAN
WELL. THE NATURAL TEMPERATURE OF OUR SPRING IS THE HIGHEST IN THE AREA— ABOUT 60 DEGREES CELSIUS (140°F)
WE USE THIS WATER-COOLED HEAT EXCHANGER IN ORDER TO KEEP OUR SPRING FLOWING STRAIGHT FROM THE SOURCE.
THE COOL WATER IS DRAWN FROM THE RIVER NEARBY, SEE...
ARE YOU GETTING ALL THIS?
<UMM...>
<HOW DO I SAY THIS...?>
THIS IS A TOOL TO COOL DOWN THE BATH...
......

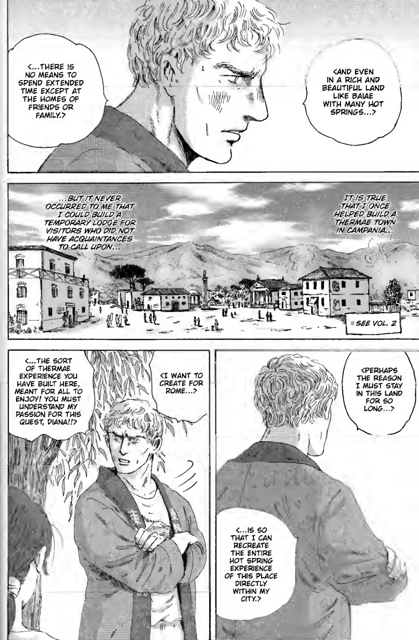

<DIANA ......>
<FORGIVE ME, BUT CAN YOU INTERPRET MY WORDS AND HIS WITH MORE CLARITY?>
....
<I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS APPLIANCE IS MEANT TO COOL THE WATER BEING DRAWN FROM BENEATH THE GROUND.>
<BUT I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS TOOL TO LOWER THE TEMPERATURE OF WATER!>
<HOW DOES THE INSIDE WORK!?>
UM... HE WANTS TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE INNER WORKINGS OF THE COOLER...
INNER WORKINGS...?
WELL, BASICALLY, THERE'S A SPIRAL COIL INSIDE...
...AND IF YOU PUT THE COLD WATER IN THERE, IT LOWERS THE TEMPERATURE OF THE WATER AROUND IT...
<DIAGRAM IT FOR ME!>
AH, OH!
YOU WANT ME TO DRAW IT? I SUPPOSE THAT'S QUICKER ...

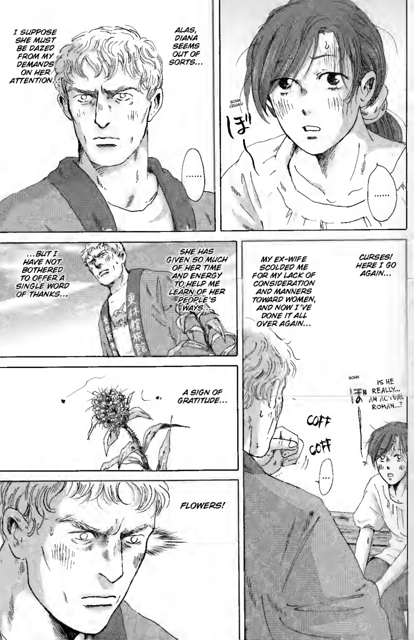

FIRST, THE SPRING WATER COMES IN HERE...
AND HERE'S THE PUMP...
......
SO YOU CREATE THESE SEPARATIONS HERE INSIDE THE PIPE...
キュッ
KYU (SQUIK)
...AND BY FORCING THE WATER TO SWIRL THROUGH THIS SPIRAL, IT INCREASES THE AMOUNT OF CONTACT WITH THE COLD WATER PIPE.
<...I SEE. SO THE SPRING WATER DOES NOT SIMPLY TRAVEL DIRECTLY THROUGH THE RESERVOIR.>
<THIS IS VERY CLEVER...>
<NOW I UNDERSTAND. AS FOR THE COOLING WATER EMITTED FROM THIS END...>
......
...HUH? OH...THIS WATER HERE? WELL...
IT ACTUALLY RAISES THE TEMPERATURE HERE IN THIS ROOM.
ゴオ...
GOH (WHIRR)
...
IT'S QUITE CONVENIENT. YOU CAN EVEN DRY YOUR LAUNDRY IN HERE.
<SO THAT PIPE TRAVELS THROUGH HERE...>

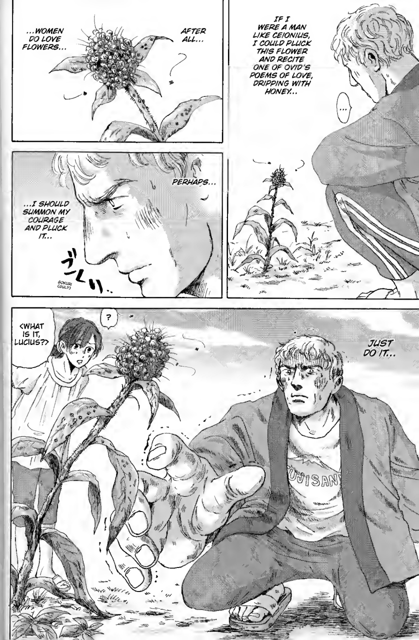

SO THIS IS A DIFFERENT BOILER ROOM...
<......>
<AND WHAT IS THIS CONTRAPTION?>
THIS IS ANOTHER BOILER INSTALLED FOR EMERGENCIES...
...IN CASE OF A BLACK-OUT OR IF WE CAN'T DRAW THE HOT SPRING FOR SOME REASON.
SIGN EMPLOYEES ONLY
<UM... LUCIUS...>
<DIANA!!>
<TRANSLATE WHAT HE IS SAYING! WHAT IS HE SAYING THIS ROOM IS FOR!? HURRY, HURRY!!>
<I THINK... I NEED SOME FRESH AIR...>
<I'M FEELING JUST A BIT... MENTALLY EXHAUSTED.>
SORRY...
<...!>
<OF COURSE! YES, DIANA... I AM SORRY.>

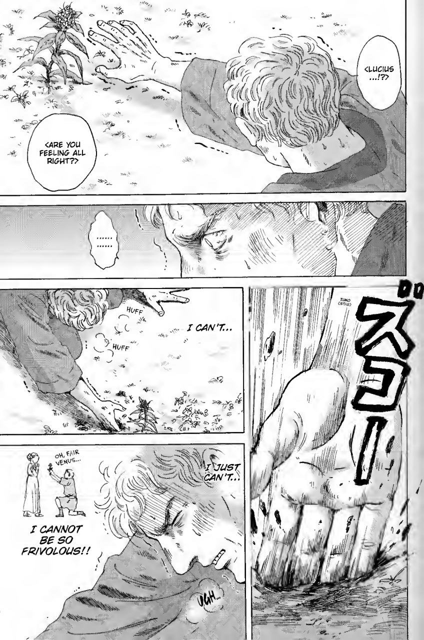

...
......
SIGH
<How careless I have been... I've paid no heed...>
<...to the terrible burden I've been placing upon you.>
<I should be the one apologizing, Lucius...>
<I'm sorry I can't be more helpful to you.>

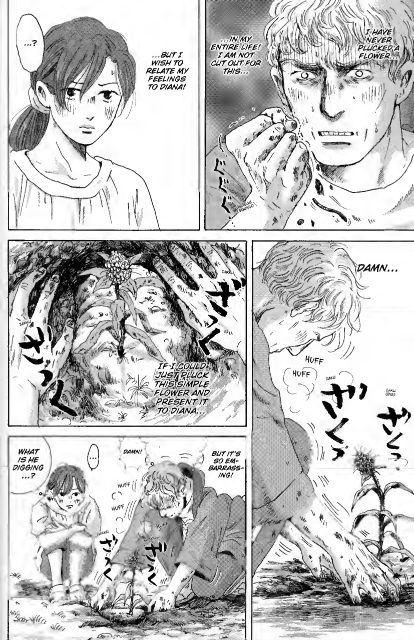

<WHAT?>
<I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH TO TRANSLATE ALL THESE WATER TERMS...>
<WH-WHAT!? THAT IS NOT TRUE!>
<WITHOUT YOU, I WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND A SINGLE THING ABOUT THIS INN AND ITS THERMAE!!>
AS YOU MUST HAVE REALIZED FROM YOUR VISIT TO ROME...
...THE CULTURE OF THE "INN" HAS NOT QUITE DEVELOPED IN OUR GREAT CITY.
WE HAVE "MANSIO" THAT ARE ERECTED ALONG MAJOR ARTERIAL ROADS FOR A PERIOD OF TIME...
...BUT ONE CANNOT LODGE IN THEM WITHOUT A WRIT OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.
THERE ARE "HOSPITIUMS" FOR THE PUBLIC, BUT THEY ARE SO FILTHY AND UNSAFE THAT MANY PREFER TO CAMP OUT OF DOORS...
THEY ARE HARDLY PLACES OF RESPITE.

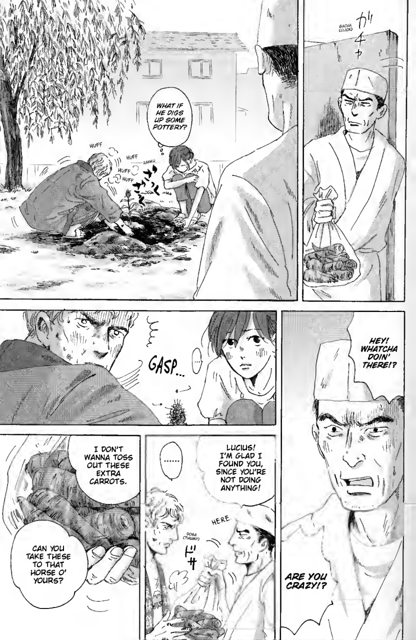

<AND EVEN IN A RICH AND BEAUTIFUL LAND LIKE BAIAE WITH MANY HOT SPRINGS...>
<...THERE IS NO MEANS TO SPEND EXTENDED TIME EXCEPT AT THE HOMES OF FRIENDS OR FAMILY.>
IT IS TRUE THAT I ONCE HELPED BUILD A THERMAE TOWN IN CAMPANIA...
...BUT IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME THAT I COULD BUILD A TEMPORARY LODGE FOR VISITORS WHO DID NOT HAVE ACQUAINTANCES TO CALL UPON...
※SEE VOL. 2
<PERHAPS THE REASON I MUST STAY IN THIS LAND FOR SO LONG...>
<...IS SO THAT I CAN RECREATE THE ENTIRE HOT SPRING EXPERIENCE OF THIS PLACE DIRECTLY WITHIN MY CITY.>
<I WANT TO CREATE FOR ROME...>
<...THE SORT OF THERMAE EXPERIENCE YOU HAVE BUILT HERE, MEANT FOR ALL TO ENJOY! YOU MUST UNDERSTAND MY PASSION FOR THIS QUEST, DIANA!!>

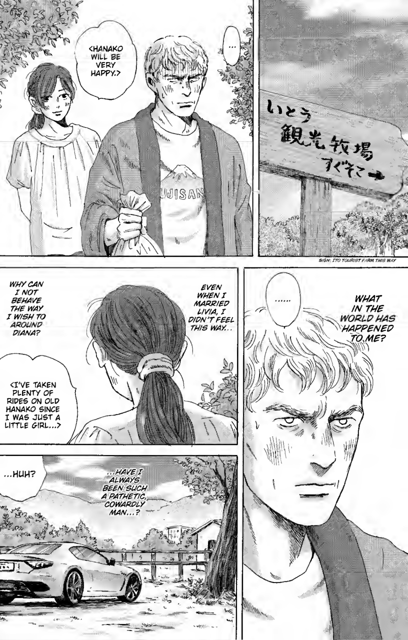

ぼ
BOHH (DUHH)
......
ALAS, DIANA SEEMS OUT OF SORTS...
I SUPPOSE SHE MUST BE DAZED FROM MY DEMANDS ON HER ATTENTION...
......
SHE HAS GIVEN SO MUCH OF HER TIME AND ENERGY TO HELP ME LEARN OF HER PEOPLE'S WAYS...
...BUT I HAVE NOT BOTHERED TO OFFER A SINGLE WORD OF THANKS...
A SIGN OF GRATITUDE...
FLOWERS!
CURSES! HERE I GO AGAIN...
MY EX-WIFE SCOLDED ME FOR MY LACK OF CONSIDERATION AND MANNERS TOWARD WOMEN, AND NOW I'VE DONE IT ALL OVER AGAIN...
COFF
COFF
...
ぼ
BOHH
IS HE REALLY... AN ACTUAL ROMAN...?


IF I WERE A MAN LIKE CEIONIUS, I COULD PLUCK THIS FLOWER AND RECITE ONE OF OVID'S POEMS OF LOVE, DRIPPING WITH HONEY...
...
AFTER ALL...
...WOMEN DO LOVE FLOWERS...
PERHAPS...
...I SHOULD SUMMON MY COURAGE AND PLUCK IT...
ゴクリ
GOKURI (GULP)
JUST DO IT...
UJISAN
?
<WHAT IS IT, LUCIUS?>

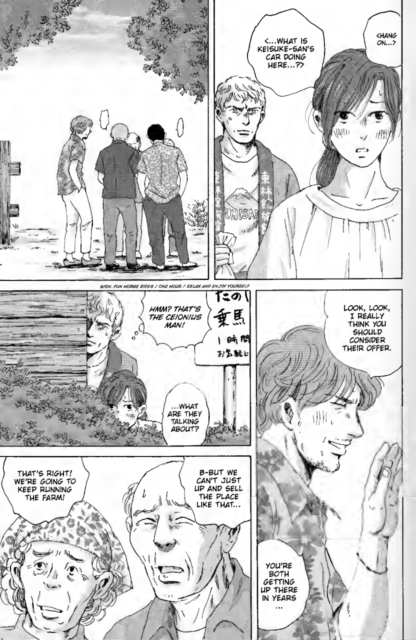

<LUCIUS ...!?>
<ARE YOU FEELING ALL RIGHT?>
......
......
I CAN'T...
HUFF
HUFF
I JUST CAN'T...
OH, FAIR VENUS...
I CANNOT BE SO FRIVOLOUS!!
UGH...
ズコー
ZUKO (STAB)

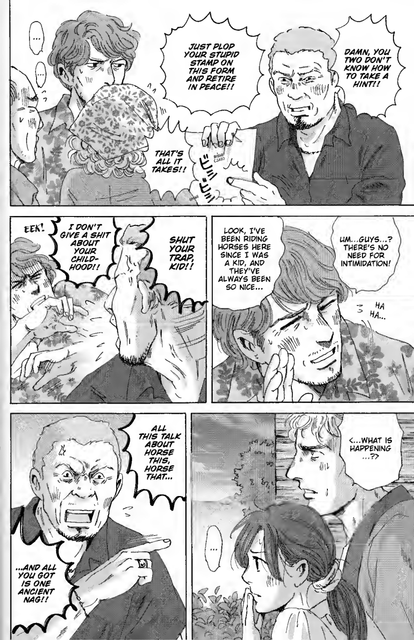

I HAVE NEVER PLUCKED A FLOWER...
...IN MY ENTIRE LIFE! I AM NOT CUT OUT FOR THIS...
ぐぐぐ
GUGUGU (SQUISH)
...?
...BUT I WISH TO RELATE MY FEELINGS TO DIANA!
DAMN...
HUFF
HUFF
ZAKU (DIG)
ざくっ
ZAKU
ざくっ
ZAKU
ざく
ZAKU
ざく
IF I COULD JUST PLUCK THIS SIMPLE FLOWER AND PRESENT IT TO DIANA...
BUT IT'S SO EM-BARRASSING!
DAMN!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
ZAKU
ざく
ZAKU
ざく
...
WHAT IS HE DIGGING ...?

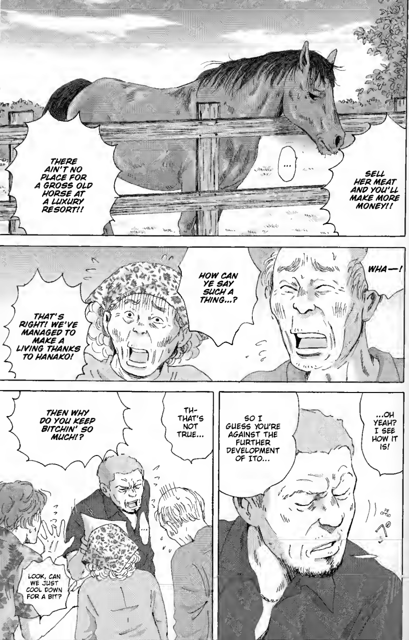

GACHA (CLICK)
ガチャ
WHAT IF HE DIGS UP SOME POTTERY?
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
ZAKKU
ざっくざっく
HEY! WHATCHA DOIN' THERE!?
GASP...
...
ARE YOU CRAZY!?
LUCIUS! I'M GLAD I FOUND YOU, SINCE YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING!
......
HERE.
DOSA (THUMP)
ドサ
I DON'T WANNA TOSS OUT THESE EXTRA CARROTS.
CAN YOU TAKE THESE TO THAT HORSE O' YOURS?

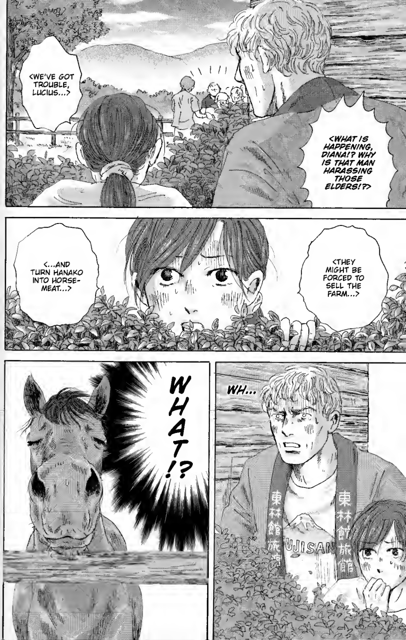

いとう
観光牧場
すぐそこ→
...
<HANAKO WILL BE VERY HAPPY.>
UJISAN
......
WHAT IN THE WORLD HAS HAPPENED TO ME?
EVEN WHEN I MARRIED LIVIA, I DIDN'T FEEL THIS WAY...
WHY CAN I NOT BEHAVE THE WAY I WISH TO AROUND DIANA?
<I'VE TAKEN PLENTY OF RIDES ON OLD HANAKO SINCE I WAS JUST A LITTLE GIRL...>
...HAVE I ALWAYS BEEN SUCH A PATHETIC, COWARDLY MAN...?
...HUH?

SIGN: ITO TOURIST FARM THIS WAY

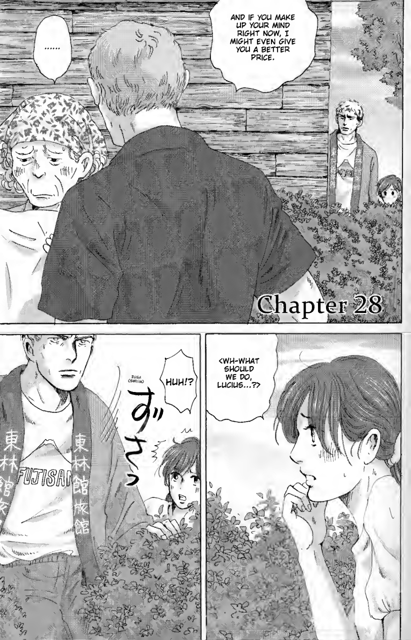

SIGN: FUN HORSE RIDES / ONE HOUR / RELAX AND ENJOY YOURSELF
<HANG ON...>
<...WHAT IS KEISUKE-SAN'S CAR DOING HERE...?>
FUJISAN
たのし
乗馬
1時間
お気軽に
HMM? THAT'S THE CEIONIUS MAN!
...WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?
LOOK, LOOK, I REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD CONSIDER THEIR OFFER.
B-BUT WE CAN'T JUST UP AND SELL THE PLACE LIKE THAT...
THAT'S RIGHT! WE'RE GOING TO KEEP RUNNING THE FARM!
YOU'RE BOTH GETTING UP THERE IN YEARS ...

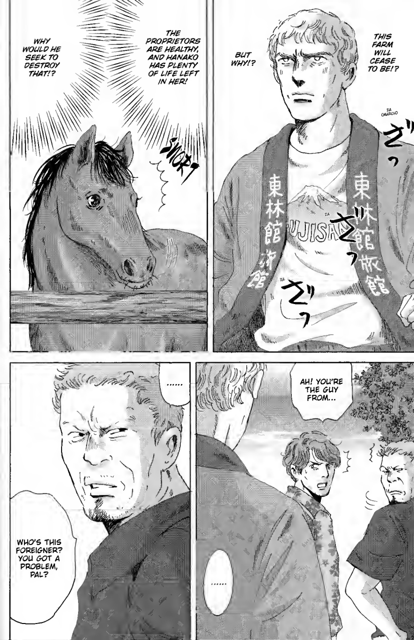

DAMN, YOU TWO DON'T KNOW HOW TO TAKE A HINT!!
JUST PLOP YOUR STUPID STAMP ON THIS FORM AND RETIRE IN PEACE!!
...
...
THAT'S ALL IT TAKES!!
ビシ ビシ
BISHI (JAB)
BISHI
UM...GUYS...? THERE'S NO NEED FOR INTIMIDATION!
HA HA...
LOOK, I'VE BEEN RIDING HORSES HERE SINCE I WAS A KID, AND THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN SO NICE...
SHUT YOUR TRAP, KID!!
I DON'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT YOUR CHILDHOOD!!
EEK!
<...WHAT IS HAPPENING ...?>
...
ALL THIS TALK ABOUT HORSE THIS, HORSE THAT...
...AND ALL YOU GOT IS ONE ANCIENT NAG!!

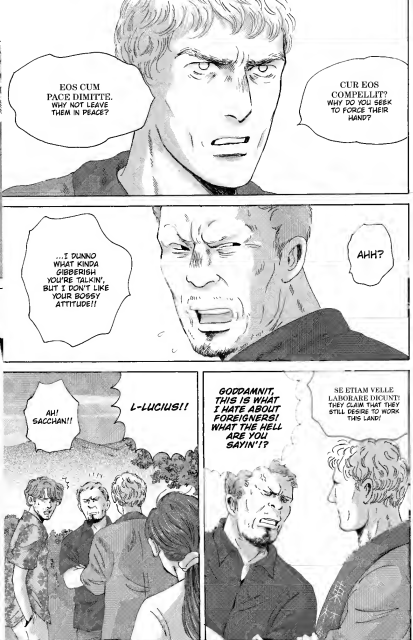

SELL HER MEAT AND YOU'LL MAKE MORE MONEY!!
...
THERE AIN'T NO PLACE FOR A GROSS OLD HORSE AT A LUXURY RESORT!!
WHA—!
HOW CAN YE SAY SUCH A THING...?
THAT'S RIGHT! WE'VE MANAGED TO MAKE A LIVING THANKS TO HANAKO!
...OH YEAH? I SEE HOW IT IS!
SO I GUESS YOU'RE AGAINST THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF ITO...
TH- THAT'S NOT TRUE...
THEN WHY DO YOU KEEP BITCHIN' SO MUCH!?
...
LOOK, CAN WE JUST COOL DOWN FOR A BIT?

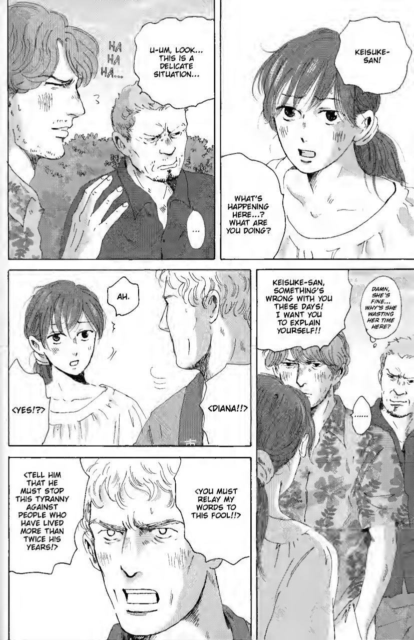

<WHAT IS HAPPENING, DIANA!? WHY IS THAT MAN HARASSING THOSE ELDERS!?>
<WE'VE GOT TROUBLE, LUCIUS...>
<THEY MIGHT BE FORCED TO SELL THE FARM...>
<...AND TURN HANAKO INTO HORSE-MEAT...>
WH...
東林館旅館
UJISAN
東林館旅
WHAT!?

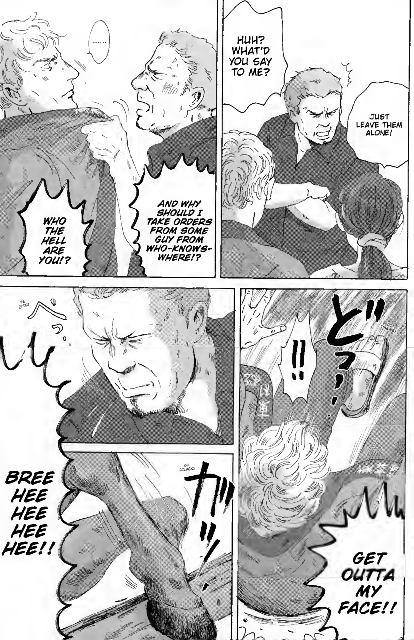
Chapter 28

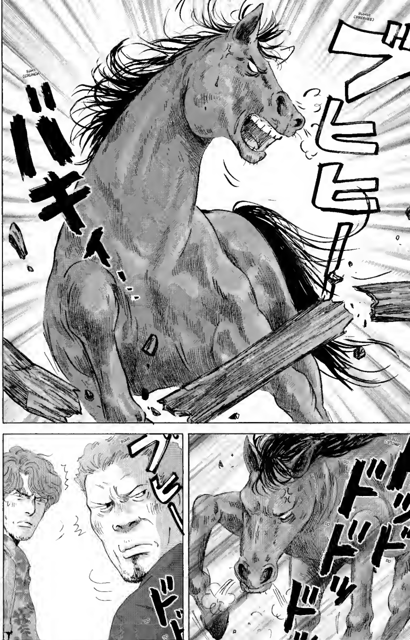

AND IF YOU MAKE UP YOUR MIND RIGHT NOW, I MIGHT EVEN GIVE YOU A BETTER PRICE.
......
<WH-WHAT SHOULD WE DO, LUCIUS...?>
HUH!?
ずさっ
ZUSA (SWISH)
東林館旅館
FUJISAN

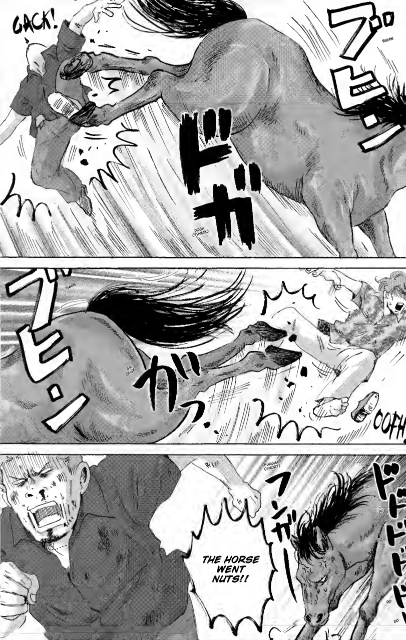

THIS FARM WILL CEASE TO BE!?
BUT WHY!?
ZA (MARCH)
ざっ
東林館旅館
UJISA
ZA
ざっ
ZA
ざっ
THE PROPRIETORS ARE HEALTHY, AND HANAKO HAS PLENTY OF LIFE LEFT IN HER!
WHY WOULD HE SEEK TO DESTROY THAT!?
SNORT
AH! YOU'RE THE GUY FROM...
......
......
WHO'S THIS FOREIGNER? YOU GOT A PROBLEM, PAL?

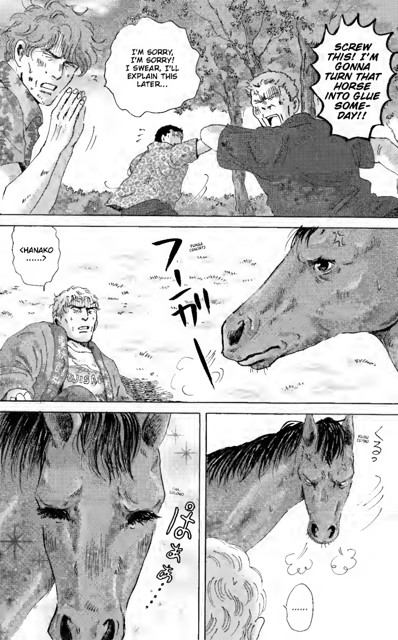

CUR EOS COMPELLIT? WHY DO YOU SEEK TO FORCE THEIR HAND?
EOS CUM PACE DIMITTE. WHY NOT LEAVE THEM IN PEACE?
AHH?
...I DUNNO WHAT KINDA GIBBERISH YOU'RE TALKIN', BUT I DON'T LIKE YOUR BOSSY ATTITUDE!!
SE ETIAM VELLE LABORARE DICUNT! THEY CLAIM THAT THEY STILL DESIRE TO WORK THIS LAND!
GODDAMNIT, THIS IS WHAT I HATE ABOUT FOREIGNERS! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SAYIN'!?
L-LUCIUS!!
AH! SACCHAN!!

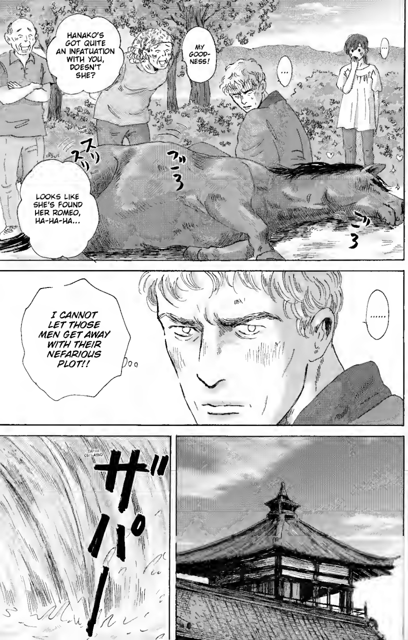

KEISUKE-SAN!
WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE...? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
U-UM, LOOK... THIS IS A DELICATE SITUATION...
HA HA HA...
...
KEISUKE-SAN, SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH YOU THESE DAYS! I WANT YOU TO EXPLAIN YOURSELF!!
DAMN, SHE'S FINE... WHY'S SHE WASTING HER TIME HERE?
......
<DIANA!!>
AH.
<YES!?>
<YOU MUST RELAY MY WORDS TO THIS FOOL!!>
<TELL HIM THAT HE MUST STOP THIS TYRANNY AGAINST PEOPLE WHO HAVE LIVED MORE THAN TWICE HIS YEARS!>

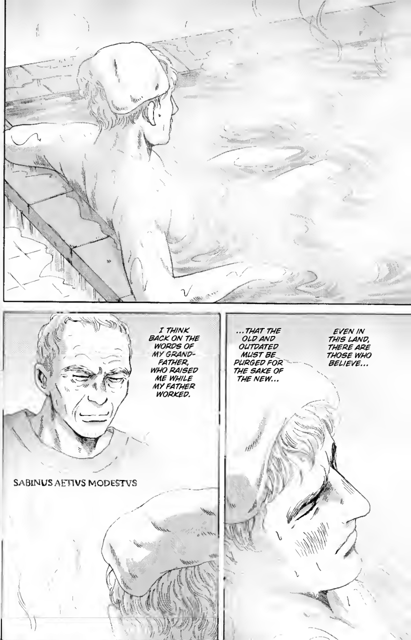

JUST LEAVE THEM ALONE!
HUH? WHAT'D YOU SAY TO ME?
……
AND WHY SHOULD I TAKE ORDERS FROM SOME GUY FROM WHO-KNOWS-WHERE!?
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU!?
どっ
DO! (SHOVE)
!!
GET OUTTA MY FACE!!
へっ
HE (PFFT)
ガッ
GA (CLACK)
BREE HEE HEE HEE HEE!!

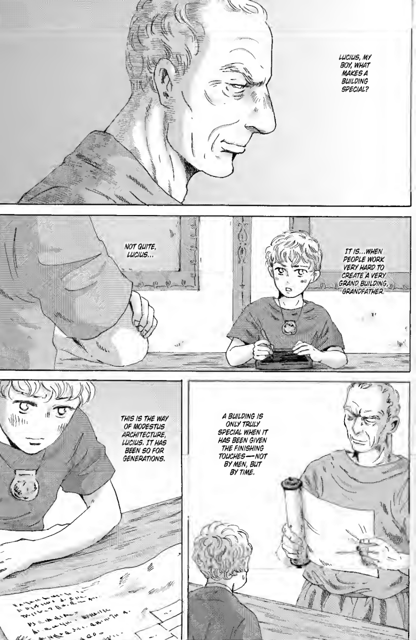

BUHIII (BREHEE)
ブヒヒー
BAKI! (CRUNCH)
バキィ…
DO (STOMP)
ドッドッドッ
BUHH!
ブー
ドド

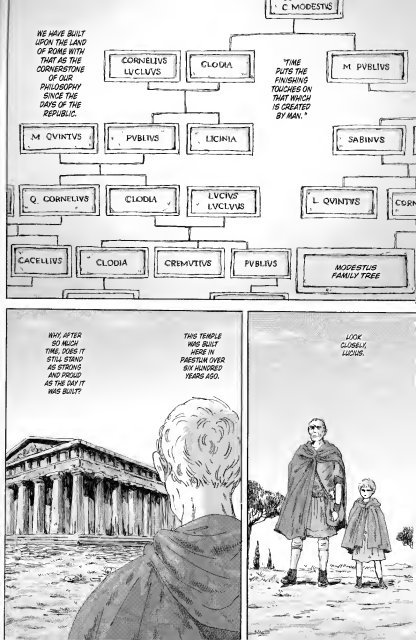

ブヒーン
BUHIN
ドガ
DOGA (THWAK)
GACK!
ブヒーン
BUHIN
ガッ
GA (KICK)
OOFH!
ドドドドド
DO DO DO DO DO
フンガー
FUNGAA (SNORT)
THE HORSE WENT NUTS!!

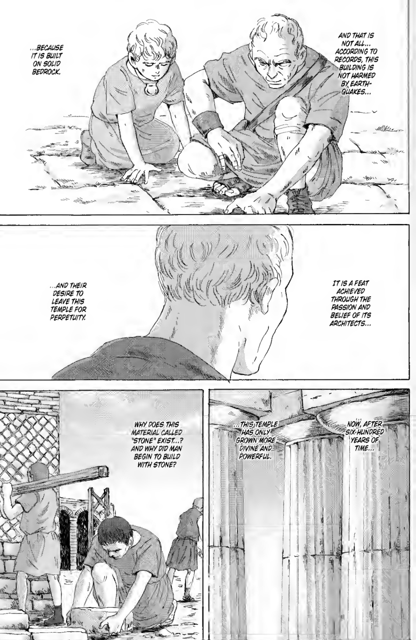

SCREW THIS! I'M GONNA TURN THAT HORSE INTO GLUE SOME-DAY!!
I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY! I SWEAR, I'LL EXPLAIN THIS LATER...
FUNGA (SNORT)
フーガー
<HANAKO ......>
UJISA
KURU (SPIN)
くるっ
......
PAA... (GLOW)
ぱぁぁ......

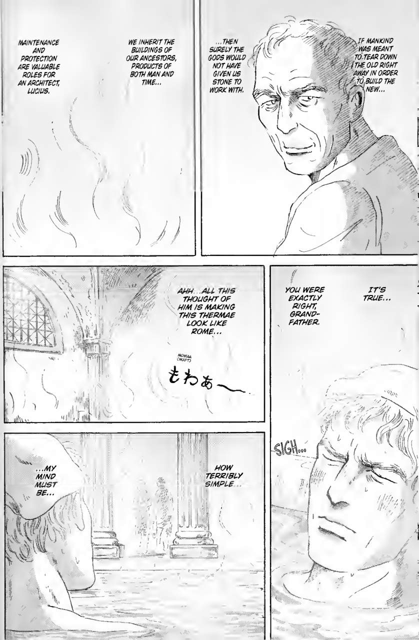

...
...
MY GOODNESS!
HANAKO'S GOT QUITE AN INFATUATION WITH YOU, DOESN'T SHE?
ゴロ GORO (ROLL)
ゴロ GORO
スリ SURI (RUB)
スリ SURI
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S FOUND HER ROMEO, HA-HA-HA...
......
I CANNOT LET THOSE MEN GET AWAY WITH THEIR NEFARIOUS PLOT!!
ザパー ZAPAA (SPLASH)

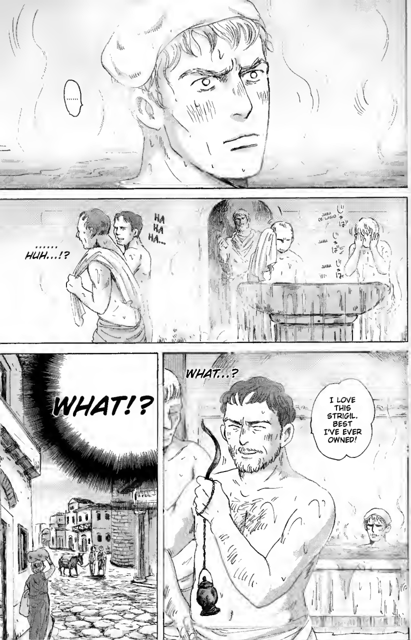

EVEN IN THIS LAND, THERE ARE THOSE WHO BELIEVE...
...THAT THE OLD AND OUTDATED MUST BE PURGED FOR THE SAKE OF THE NEW...
I THINK BACK ON THE WORDS OF MY GRANDFATHER, WHO RAISED ME WHILE MY FATHER WORKED.
SABINUS AETIVS MODESTVS

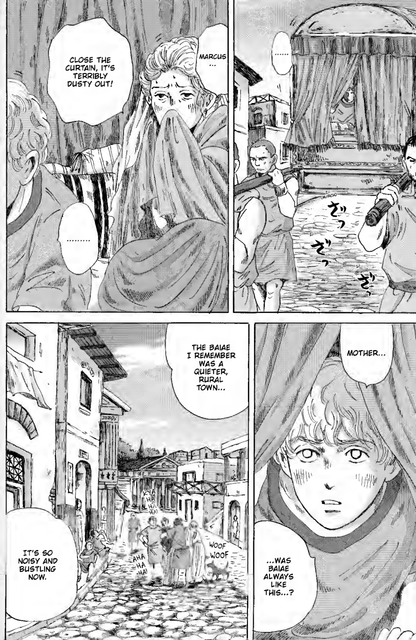

LUCIUS, MY BOY, WHAT MAKES A BUILDING SPECIAL?
IT IS...WHEN PEOPLE WORK VERY HARD TO CREATE A VERY GRAND BUILDING, GRANDFATHER.
NOT QUITE, LUCIUS...
A BUILDING IS ONLY TRULY SPECIAL WHEN IT HAS BEEN GIVEN THE FINISHING TOUCHES—NOT BY MEN, BUT BY TIME.
THIS IS THE WAY OF MODESTUS ARCHITECTURE, LUCIUS. IT HAS BEEN SO FOR GENERATIONS.

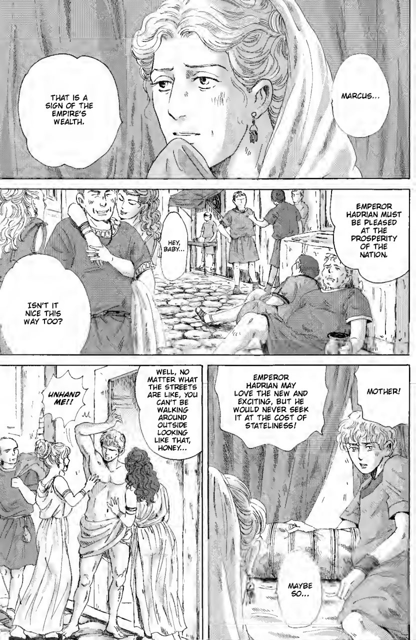

C MODESTVS
M PVBLIVS
"TIME PUTS THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON THAT WHICH IS CREATED BY MAN."
CLODIA
CORNELIVS LVCLVVS
WE HAVE BUILT UPON THE LAND OF ROME WITH THAT AS THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR PHILOSOPHY SINCE THE DAYS OF THE REPUBLIC.
SABINVS
LICINIA
PVBLIVS
M QVINTVS
CORN
L QVINTVS
LVCIVS LVCLVVS
CLODIA
Q. CORNELIVS
MODESTUS FAMILY TREE
PVBLIVS
CREMVTIVS
CLODIA
CACELLIVS
LOOK CLOSELY, LUCIUS.
THIS TEMPLE WAS BUILT HERE IN PAESTUM OVER SIX HUNDRED YEARS AGO.
WHY, AFTER SO MUCH TIME, DOES IT STILL STAND AS STRONG AND PROUD AS THE DAY IT WAS BUILT?

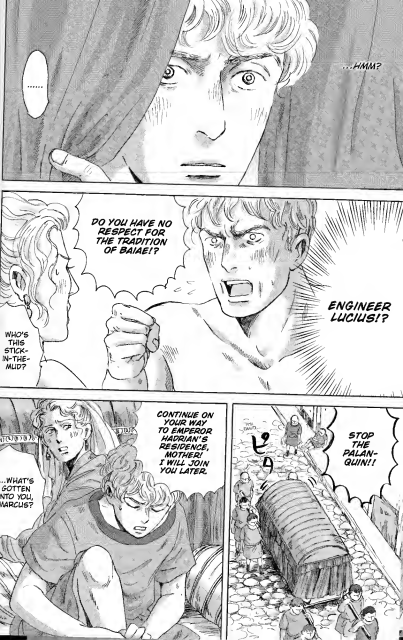

AND THAT IS NOT ALL... ACCORDING TO RECORDS, THIS BUILDING IS NOT HARMED BY EARTHQUAKES...
...BECAUSE IT IS BUILT ON SOLID BEDROCK.
IT IS A FEAT ACHIEVED THROUGH THE PASSION AND BELIEF OF ITS ARCHITECTS...
...AND THEIR DESIRE TO LEAVE THIS TEMPLE FOR PERPETUITY.
NOW, AFTER SIX-HUNDRED YEARS OF TIME...
...THIS TEMPLE HAS ONLY GROWN MORE DIVINE AND POWERFUL.
WHY DOES THIS MATERIAL CALLED "STONE" EXIST...? AND WHY DID MAN BEGIN TO BUILD WITH STONE?

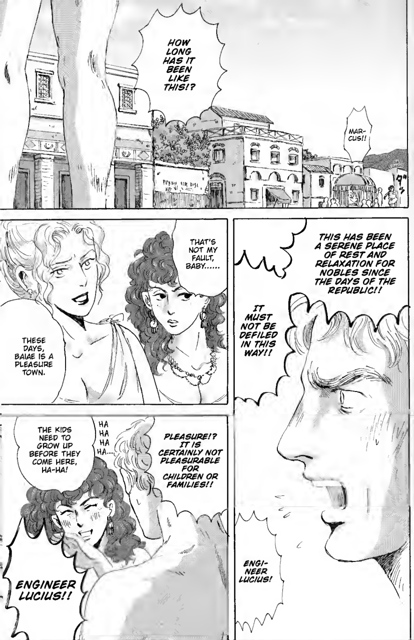

IF MANKIND WAS MEANT TO TEAR DOWN THE OLD RIGHT AWAY IN ORDER TO BUILD THE NEW...
...THEN SURELY THE GODS WOULD NOT HAVE GIVEN US STONE TO WORK WITH.
WE INHERIT THE BUILDINGS OF OUR ANCESTORS, PRODUCTS OF BOTH MAN AND TIME...
MAINTENANCE AND PROTECTION ARE VALUABLE ROLES FOR AN ARCHITECT, LUCIUS.
IT'S TRUE...
YOU WERE EXACTLY RIGHT, GRANDFATHER.
SIGH...
AHH...ALL THIS THOUGHT OF HIM IS MAKING THIS THERMAE LOOK LIKE ROME...
MOWAA (WAFT)
もわぁ〜
HOW TERRIBLY SIMPLE...
...MY MIND MUST BE...

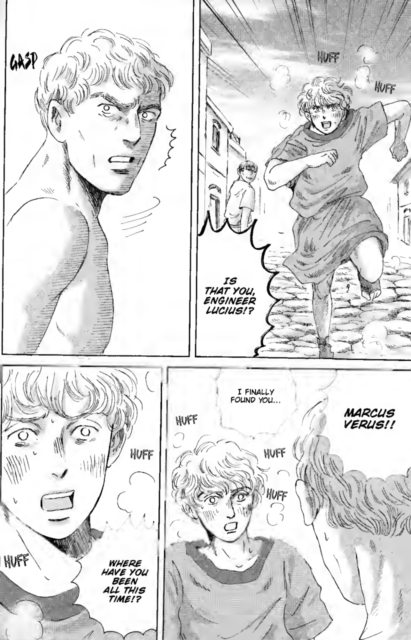

......
じゃば
JABA (SPLASH)
じゃばっ
JABA
じゃば
JABA
HA HA HA...
......HUH...!?
WHAT...?
I LOVE THIS STRIGIL. BEST I'VE EVER OWNED!
WHAT!?

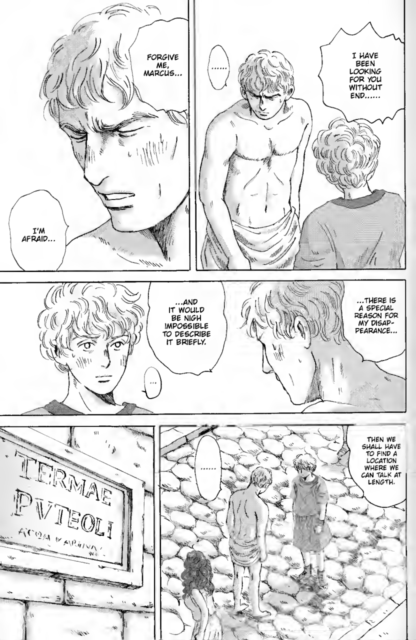

......
ZA (MARCH)
ざっ
ざっ
ざっ
MARCUS ...
CLOSE THE CURTAIN, IT'S TERRIBLY DUSTY OUT!
....
MOTHER...
...WAS BAIAE ALWAYS LIKE THIS...?
THE BAIAE I REMEMBER WAS A QUIETER, RURAL TOWN...
KYA HA HA HA!
AHA HA HA!
WOOF WOOF
IT'S SO NOISY AND BUSTLING NOW.

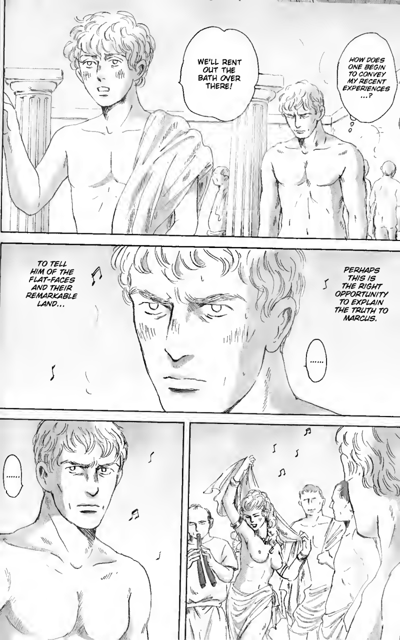

MARCUS...
THAT IS A SIGN OF THE EMPIRE'S WEALTH.
EMPEROR HADRIAN MUST BE PLEASED AT THE PROSPERITY OF THE NATION.
HEY, BABY...
ISN'T IT NICE THIS WAY TOO?
MOTHER!
EMPEROR HADRIAN MAY LOVE THE NEW AND EXCITING, BUT HE WOULD NEVER SEEK IT AT THE COST OF STATELINESS!
MAYBE SO...
WELL, NO MATTER WHAT THE STREETS ARE LIKE, YOU CAN'T BE WALKING AROUND OUTSIDE LOOKING LIKE THAT, HONEY...
UNHAND ME!!

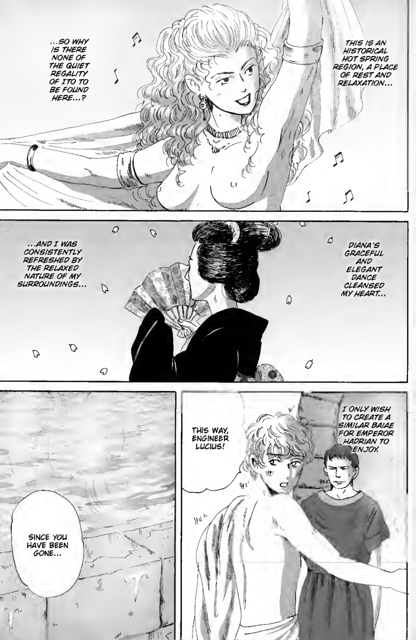

...HMM?
......
ENGINEER LUCIUS!?
DO YOU HAVE NO RESPECT FOR THE TRADITION OF BAIAE!?
WHO'S THIS STICK-IN-THE-MUD?
STOP THE PALANQUIN!!
ピタ
PITA (HALT)
CONTINUE ON YOUR WAY TO EMPEROR HADRIAN'S RESIDENCE, MOTHER! I WILL JOIN YOU LATER.
...WHAT'S GOTTEN NTO YOU, MARCUS?

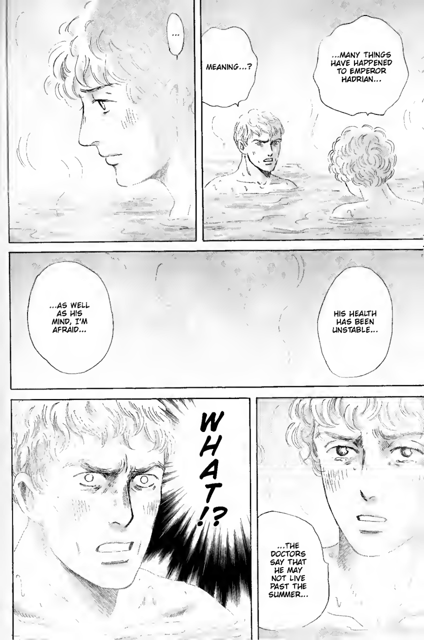

MARCUS!!
DA (DASH)
ダッ
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN LIKE THIS!?
THIS HAS BEEN A SERENE PLACE OF REST AND RELAXATION FOR NOBLES SINCE THE DAYS OF THE REPUBLIC!!
IT MUST NOT BE DEFILED IN THIS WAY!!
THAT'S NOT MY FAULT, BABY......
THESE DAYS, BAIAE IS A PLEASURE TOWN.
ENGINEER LUCIUS!
PLEASURE!? IT IS CERTAINLY NOT PLEASURABLE FOR CHILDREN OR FAMILIES!!
HA HA HA HA...
THE KIDS NEED TO GROW UP BEFORE THEY COME HERE, HA-HA!
ENGINEER LUCIUS!!


HUFF
HUFF
IS THAT YOU, ENGINEER LUCIUS!?
GASP
I FINALLY FOUND YOU...
MARCUS VERUS!!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL THIS TIME!?
HUFF


I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU WITHOUT END......
......
FORGIVE ME, MARCUS...
I'M AFRAID...
...THERE IS A SPECIAL REASON FOR MY DISAPPEARANCE...
...AND IT WOULD BE NIGH IMPOSSIBLE TO DESCRIBE IT BRIEFLY.
...
THEN WE SHALL HAVE TO FIND A LOCATION WHERE WE CAN TALK AT LENGTH.
......
TERMAE PVTEOLI
ACQVA MARINA


HOW DOES ONE BEGIN TO CONVEY MY RECENT EXPERIENCES ...?
WE'LL RENT OUT THE BATH OVER THERE!
PERHAPS THIS IS THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN THE TRUTH TO MARCUS.
TO TELL HIM OF THE FLAT-FACES AND THEIR REMARKABLE LAND...
......
......


THIS IS AN HISTORICAL HOT SPRING REGION, A PLACE OF REST AND RELAXATION...
...SO WHY IS THERE NONE OF THE QUIET REGALITY OF ITO TO BE FOUND HERE...?
DIANA'S GRACEFUL AND ELEGANT DANCE CLEANSED MY HEART...
...AND I WAS CONSISTENTLY REFRESHED BY THE RELAXED NATURE OF MY SURROUNDINGS...
I ONLY WISH TO CREATE A SIMILAR BAIAE FOR EMPEROR HADRIAN TO ENJOY.
THIS WAY, ENGINEER LUCIUS!
SINCE YOU HAVE BEEN GONE...

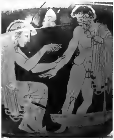

...MANY THINGS HAVE HAPPENED TO EMPEROR HADRIAN...
MEANING...?
...
HIS HEALTH HAS BEEN UNSTABLE...
...AS WELL AS HIS MIND, I'M AFRAID...
...THE DOCTORS SAY THAT HE MAY NOT LIVE PAST THE SUMMER...
WHAT!?

Just as with bathing culture, the diversity of Japan's massage techniques is unparalleled worldwide. One can receive every imaginable kind of massage in Japan. According to history, the concept of the "massage" came to Japan in the Meiji era, imported as an occupational curriculum at schools for the blind. Japan has passed down the art of *anma* massage since its passage here from China as a means of loosening muscles and treating ailments, and by melding it with newer "massage" techniques from the West, we developed our own style of modern Japanese massage. And by continuing to internalize ideas and techniques from other countries worldwide, the Japanese use of massage has become a major pillar of our views on health and relaxation.

The modern word "massage" comes from a variety of roots, such as the Greek word for "knead" and Arabian for "to handle." Its use in ancient Greece can be seen even in Homer's Odyssey, written in the eigth century BC, in which an emaciated soldier receives a massage to recover his strength. In the fifth century BC, during the Hellenistic era, Hippocrates was the first person in the history of medicine to widely feature massages as a medical therapy. In Egypt, there are wall paintings in ancient tombs depicting massages as well.

The ancient Romans absorbed the massage culture of surrounding peoples like the Greeks and Egyptians and utilized it primarily in their public baths. Remnants of that practice can still be seen today in places like

Ancient Roman massage scene relief

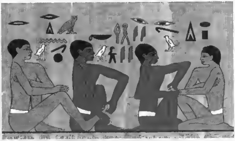


Greek arm massage

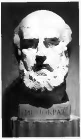
Turkey and the Middle East, where *hamams* (Turkish baths) typically feature an imposing male masseuse who will scrape, rub, pound, and knead your muscles in a dynamic and bracing manner.

Warm steam, body-relaxing hot water, and then a massage. This pattern is exactly the same as what you experience at today's hot spring towns in Japan. Of course, there are no masseuses present in the actual baths, but larger resorts offer their own massage and beauty services, and many visitors spend the day relaxing before calling a masseuse or anma artist to their rooms.

Satsuki's grandfather Tetsuzou is not technically a masseuse but a chiropractor and acupuncture professional, both of which he performed on Lucius. I conceived of that chiropractic/acupuncture story because I really wanted to have a Roman experience these two ultimate examples of Eastern medical therapy. By the way, I always rush to undergo every type of massage I can when I return to Japan, and my recent favorite is a foot massage, which I first tried out when I visited Taiwan. Of course, much of my obsession probably stems from the fact that unlike Japan's young female masseuses, the practitioners I visited in Taiwan were all older, refined, silent men. Maybe that was the particular itch I enjoyed having scratched, so to speak.

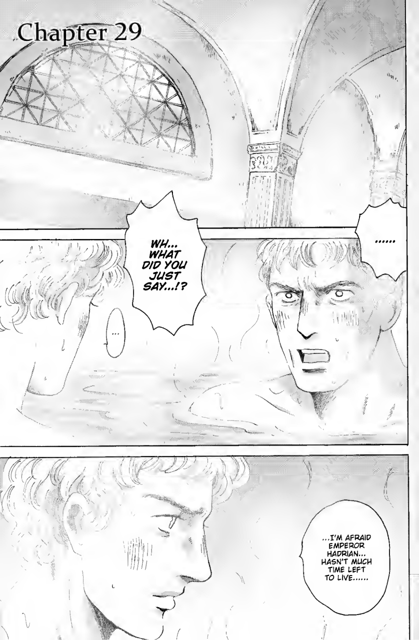


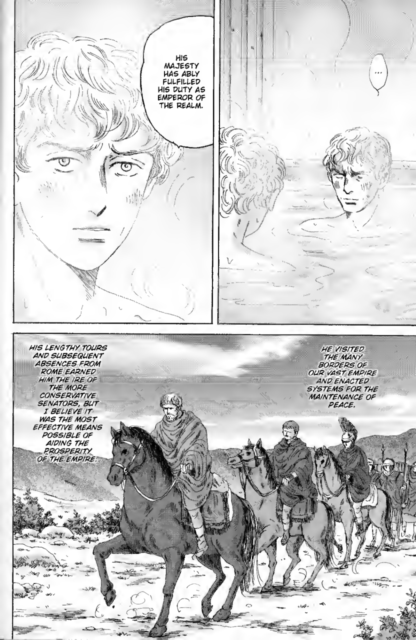
Egyptian foot and palm massage

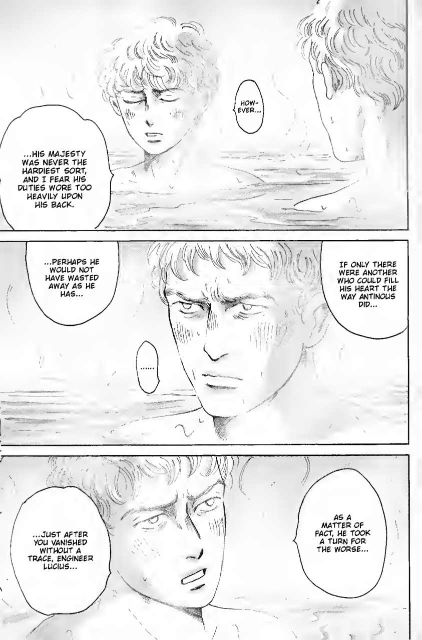


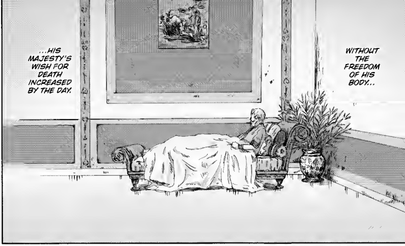
Hippocrates, the great Greek physician who propounded massage therapy

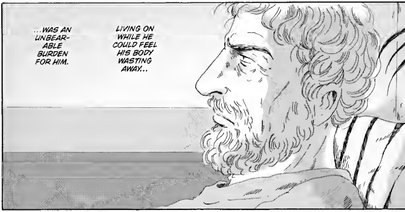
Chapter 29

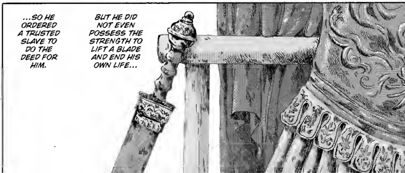

......
WH... WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY...!?
...
...I'M AFRAID EMPEROR HADRIAN... HASN'T MUCH TIME LEFT TO LIVE......

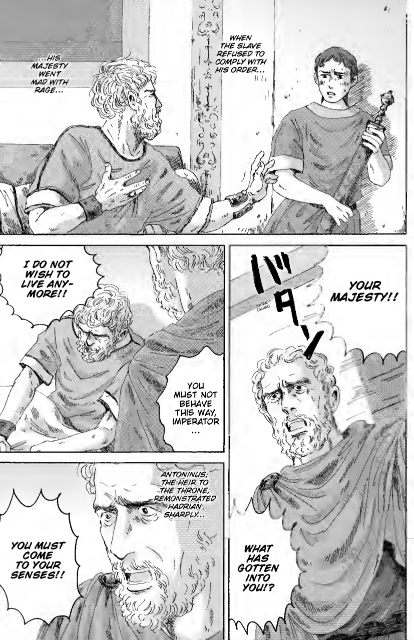

...
HIS MAJESTY HAS ABLY FULFILLED HIS DUTY AS EMPEROR OF THE REALM.
HE VISITED THE MANY BORDERS OF OUR VAST EMPIRE AND ENACTED SYSTEMS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE.
HIS LENGTHY TOURS AND SUBSEQUENT ABSENCES FROM ROME EARNED HIM THE IRE OF THE MORE CONSERVATIVE SENATORS, BUT I BELIEVE IT WAS THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS POSSIBLE OF AIDING THE PROSPERITY OF THE EMPIRE.

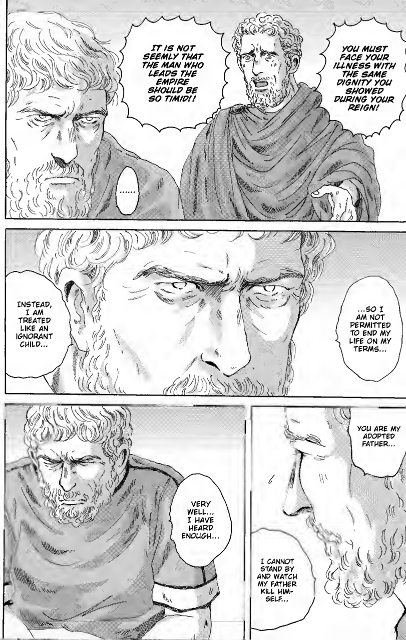

HOWEVER...
...HIS MAJESTY WAS NEVER THE HARDIEST SORT, AND I FEAR HIS DUTIES WORE TOO HEAVILY UPON HIS BACK.
IF ONLY THERE WERE ANOTHER WHO COULD FILL HIS HEART THE WAY ANTINOUS DID...
...PERHAPS HE WOULD NOT HAVE WASTED AWAY AS HE HAS...
......
AS A MATTER OF FACT, HE TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE...
...JUST AFTER YOU VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE, ENGINEER LUCIUS...

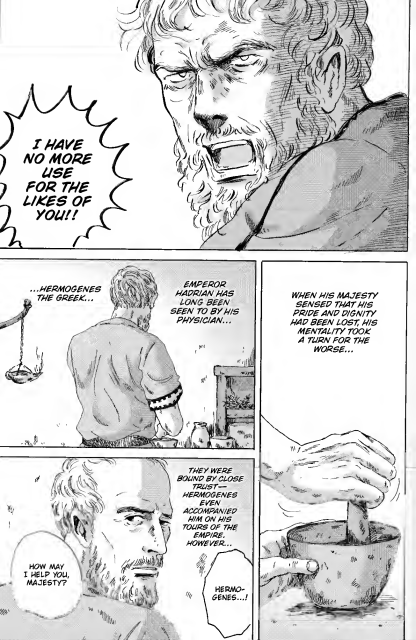

WITHOUT THE FREEDOM OF HIS BODY...
...HIS MAJESTY'S WISH FOR DEATH INCREASED BY THE DAY.

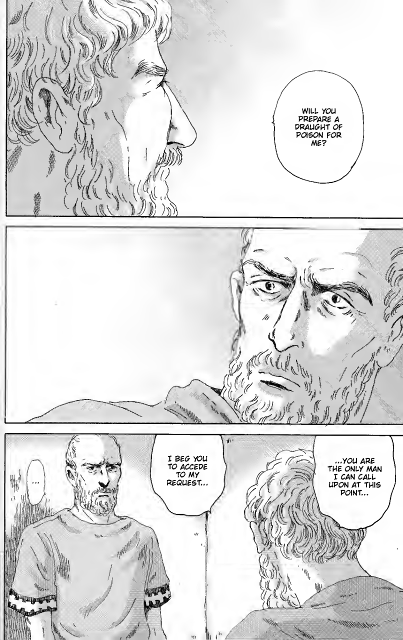

LIVING ON WHILE HE COULD FEEL HIS BODY WASTING AWAY...
...WAS AN UNBEARABLE BURDEN FOR HIM.

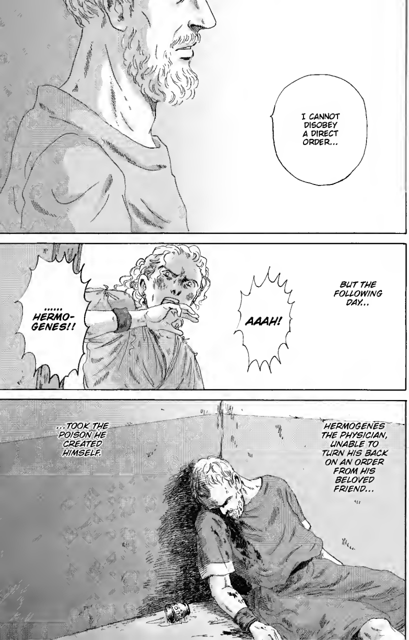

BUT HE DID NOT EVEN POSSESS THE STRENGTH TO LIFT A BLADE AND END HIS OWN LIFE...
...SO HE ORDERED A TRUSTED SLAVE TO DO THE DEED FOR HIM.

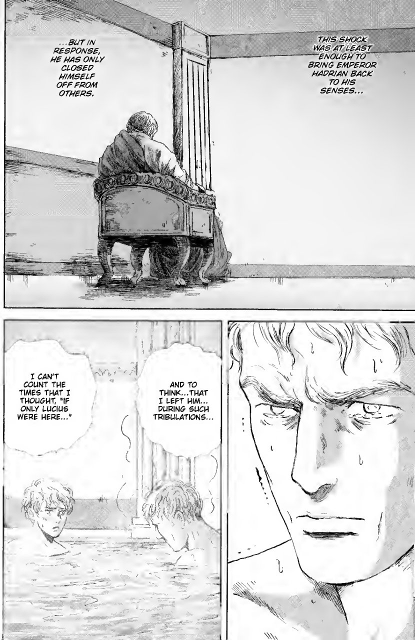

WHEN THE SLAVE REFUSED TO COMPLY WITH HIS ORDER...
...HIS MAJESTY WENT MAD WITH RAGE...
バタン
BATAN (SLAM)
YOUR MAJESTY!!
WHAT HAS GOTTEN INTO YOU!?
YOU MUST NOT BEHAVE THIS WAY, IMPERATOR ...
I DO NOT WISH TO LIVE ANYMORE!!
ANTONINUS, THE HEIR TO THE THRONE, REMONSTRATED HADRIAN SHARPLY...
YOU MUST COME TO YOUR SENSES!!

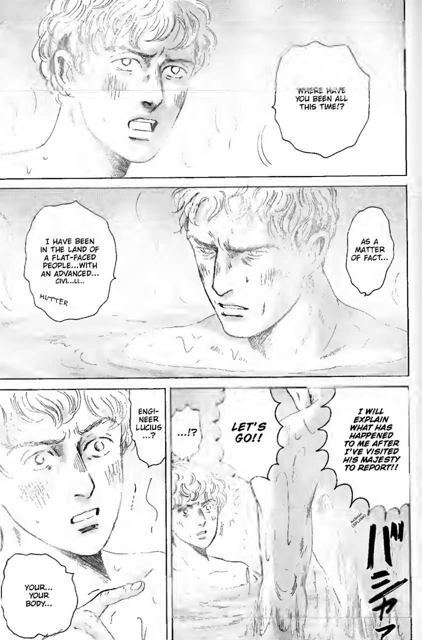

YOU MUST FACE YOUR ILLNESS WITH THE SAME DIGNITY YOU SHOWED DURING YOUR REIGN!
IT IS NOT SEEMLY THAT THE MAN WHO LEADS THE EMPIRE SHOULD BE SO TIMID!!
......
...SO I AM NOT PERMITTED TO END MY LIFE ON MY TERMS...
INSTEAD, I AM TREATED LIKE AN IGNORANT CHILD...
YOU ARE MY ADOPTED FATHER...
I CANNOT STAND BY AND WATCH MY FATHER KILL HIMSELF...
VERY WELL... I HAVE HEARD ENOUGH...

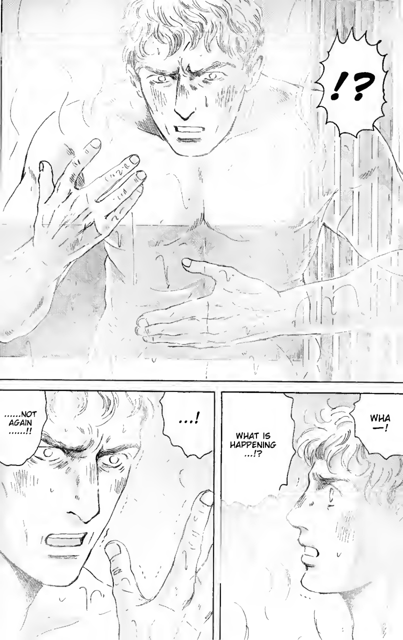

I HAVE NO MORE USE FOR THE LIKES OF YOU!!
WHEN HIS MAJESTY SENSED THAT HIS PRIDE AND DIGNITY HAD BEEN LOST, HIS MENTALITY TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE...
EMPEROR HADRIAN HAS LONG BEEN SEEN TO BY HIS PHYSICIAN...
...HERMOGENES THE GREEK...
THEY WERE BOUND BY CLOSE TRUST— HERMOGENES EVEN ACCOMPANIED HIM ON HIS TOURS OF THE EMPIRE. HOWEVER...
HERMOGENES...!
HOW MAY I HELP YOU, MAJESTY?

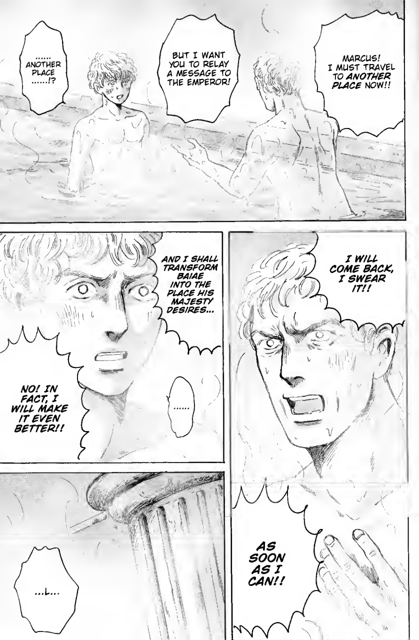

WILL YOU PREPARE A DRAUGHT OF POISON FOR ME?
...YOU ARE THE ONLY MAN I CAN CALL UPON AT THIS POINT...
I BEG YOU TO ACCEDE TO MY REQUEST...
...

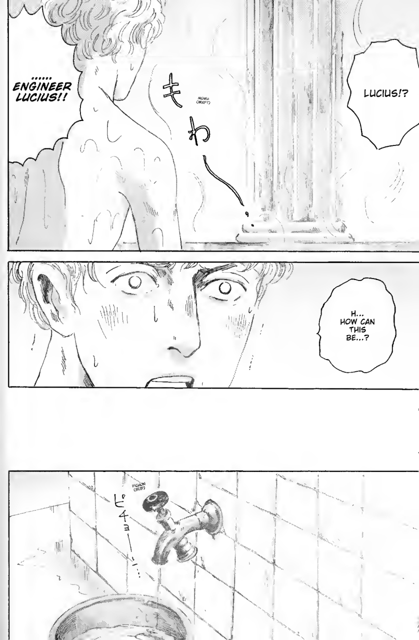

I CANNOT DISOBEY A DIRECT ORDER...
BUT THE FOLLOWING DAY...
AAAH!
...... HERMOGENES!!
HERMOGENES THE PHYSICIAN, UNABLE TO TURN HIS BACK ON AN ORDER FROM HIS BELOVED FRIEND...
...TOOK THE POISON HE CREATED HIMSELF.

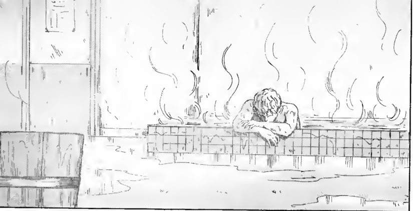

THIS SHOCK WAS AT LEAST ENOUGH TO BRING EMPEROR HADRIAN BACK TO HIS SENSES...
...BUT IN RESPONSE, HE HAS ONLY CLOSED HIMSELF OFF FROM OTHERS.
AND TO THINK...THAT I LEFT HIM... DURING SUCH TRIBULATIONS...
I CAN'T COUNT THE TIMES THAT I THOUGHT, "IF ONLY LUCIUS WERE HERE..."


WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL THIS TIME!?
AS A MATTER OF FACT...
I HAVE BEEN IN THE LAND OF A FLAT-FACED PEOPLE...WITH AN ADVANCED... CIVI...LI...
MUTTER
I WILL EXPLAIN WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME AFTER I'VE VISITED HIS MAJESTY TO REPORT!!
LET'S GO!!
...!?
BASHAA (SPLASH)
バシャア
ENGINEER LUCIUS ...?
YOUR... YOUR BODY...

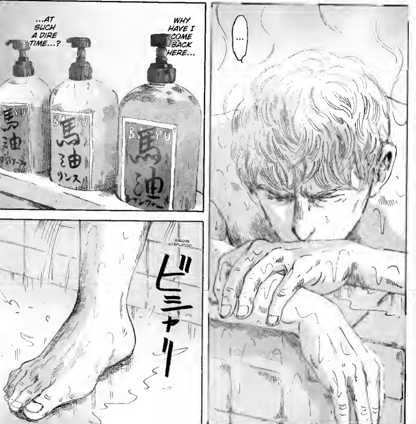

!?
WHA—!
WHAT IS HAPPENING ...!?
...!
......NOT AGAIN ......!!

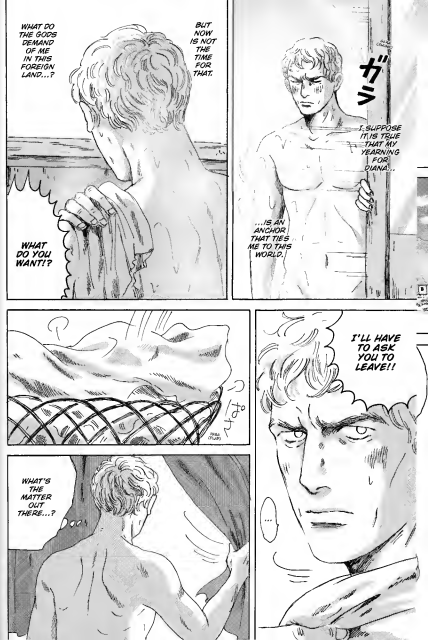

MARCUS! I MUST TRAVEL TO *ANOTHER PLACE* NOW!!
BUT I WANT YOU TO RELAY A MESSAGE TO THE EMPEROR!
...... ANOTHER PLACE ......!?
I WILL COME BACK, I SWEAR IT!!
AS SOON AS I CAN!!
AND I SHALL TRANSFORM BAIAE INTO THE PLACE HIS MAJESTY DESIRES...
NO! IN FACT, I WILL MAKE IT EVEN BETTER!!
......
...I...

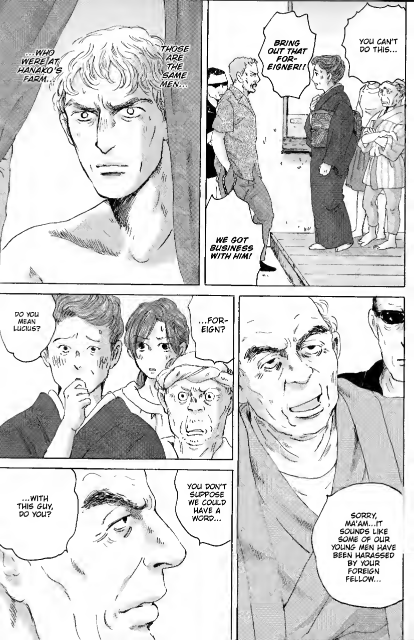

LUCIUS!?
もわ〜
NOWA (WAFT)
...... ENGINEER LUCIUS!!
H... HOW CAN THIS BE...?
ピチョーン…
PICHON (BLIP)

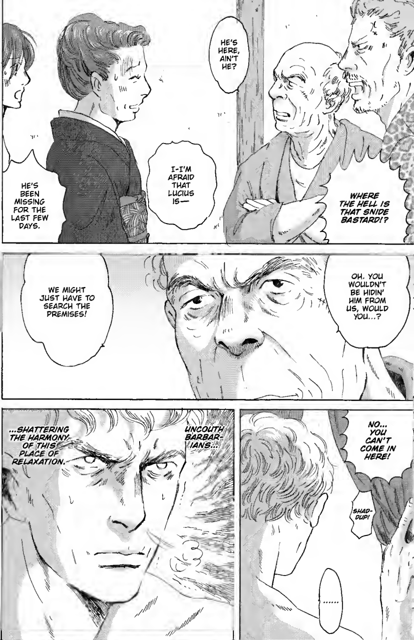


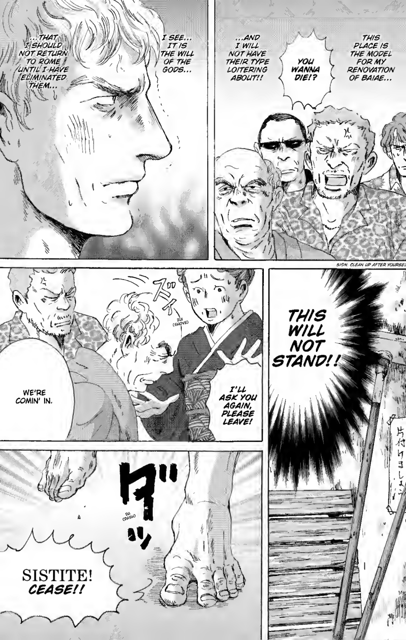
BOTTLES BAYU (HORSE OIL) BODY SOAP, RINSE, SHAMPOO

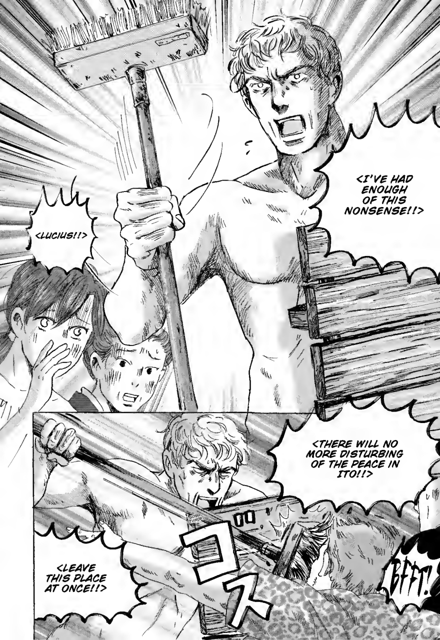

...
WHY HAVE I COME BACK HERE...
...AT SUCH A DIRE TIME...?
BAYU
馬油
リンス
BAYU
馬油
シャンプー
BISHARI (SPLATCH)
ビシャリ

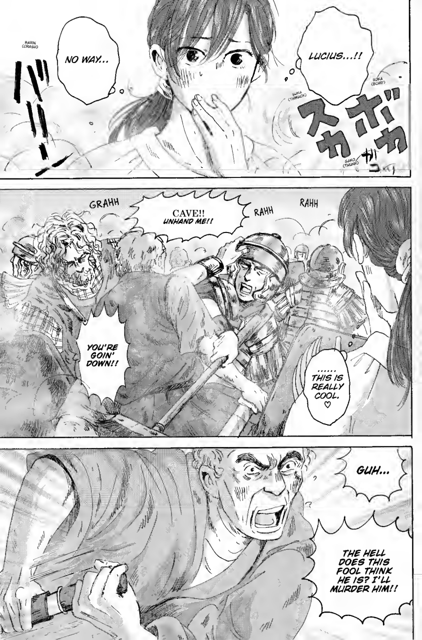

GARA (SHUNK)
ガラ
I SUPPOSE IT IS TRUE THAT MY YEARNING FOR DIANA...
...IS AN ANCHOR THAT TIES ME TO THIS WORLD.
BUT NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR THAT.
WHAT DO THE GODS DEMAND OF ME IN THIS FOREIGN LAND...?
WHAT DO YOU WANT!?
I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO LEAVE!!
...
PASA (FLAP)
WHAT'S THE MATTER OUT THERE...?

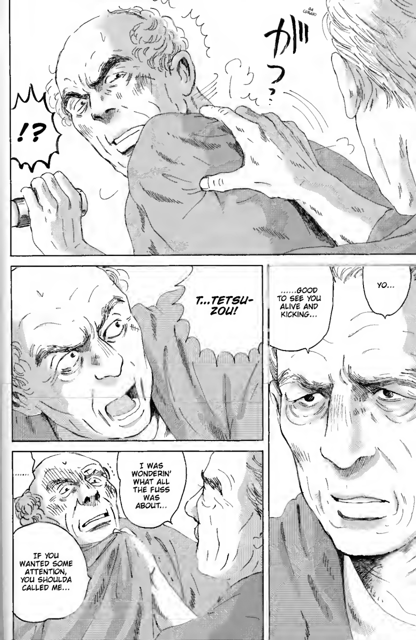

YOU CAN'T DO THIS...
BRING OUT THAT FOREIGNER!!
WE GOT BUSINESS WITH HIM!
THOSE ARE THE SAME MEN...
...WHO WERE AT HANAKO'S FARM...
...FOREIGN?
DO YOU MEAN LUCIUS?
SORRY, MA'AM...IT SOUNDS LIKE SOME OF OUR YOUNG MEN HAVE BEEN HARASSED BY YOUR FOREIGN FELLOW...
YOU DON'T SUPPOSE WE COULD HAVE A WORD...
...WITH THIS GUY, DO YOU?

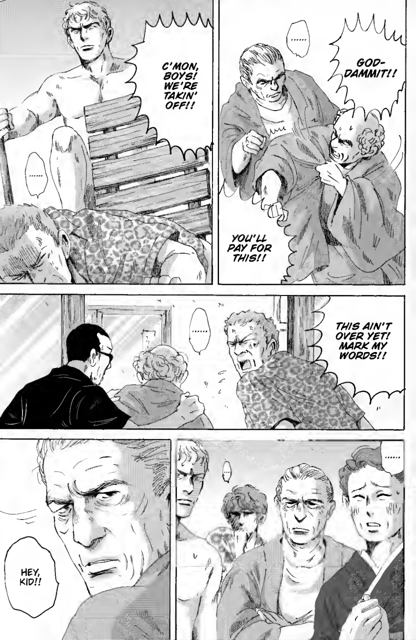

WHERE THE HELL IS THAT SNIDE BASTARD!?
HE'S HERE, AIN'T HE?
I-I'M AFRAID THAT LUCIUS IS—
HE'S BEEN MISSING FOR THE LAST FEW DAYS.
OH. YOU WOULDN'T BE HIDIN' HIM FROM US, WOULD YOU...?
WE MIGHT JUST HAVE TO SEARCH THE PREMISES!
NO... YOU CAN'T COME IN HERE!
SHAD-DUP!
......
UNCOUTH BARBARIANS...
...SHATTERING THE HARMONY OF THIS PLACE OF RELAXATION.

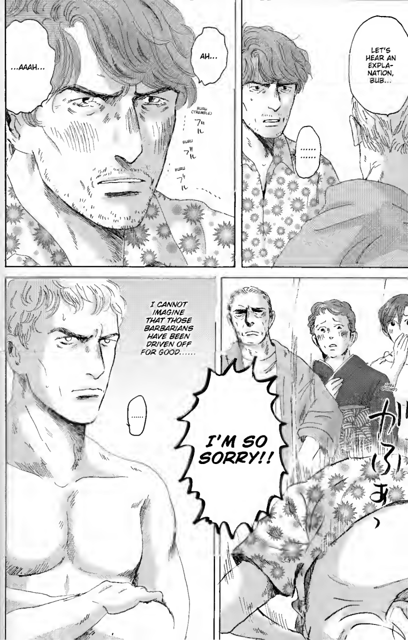

THIS PLACE IS THE MODEL FOR MY RENOVATION OF BAIAE...
YOU WANNA DIE!?
...AND I WILL NOT HAVE THEIR TYPE LOITERING ABOUT!!
I SEE... IT IS THE WILL OF THE GODS...
...THAT I SHOULD NOT RETURN TO ROME UNTIL I HAVE ELIMINATED THEM...
SIGN: CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSEL
THIS WILL NOT STAND!!
片付けましょ
I'LL ASK YOU AGAIN, PLEASE LEAVE!
ズイ
ZUI (SHOVE)
WE'RE COMIN' IN.
ダッ
DA (DASH)
SISTITE! CEASE!!


<I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS NONSENSE!!>
<LUCIUS!!>
<THERE WILL NO MORE DISTURBING OF THE PEACE IN ITO!!>
BFFT!
ゴス
GOSU THWOP
<LEAVE THIS PLACE AT ONCE!!>


LUCIUS...!!
BOKA (BOMP)
ボカ
SUKA (THWACK)
スカ
GAKO (THUNK)
ガコッ
NO WAY...
BARIN (CRASH)
バリーン
RAHH
RAHH
CAVE!! UNHAND ME!!
GRAHH
...... THIS IS REALLY COOL. ♡
YOU'RE GOIN' DOWN!!
GUH...
THE HELL DOES THIS FOOL THINK HE IS? I'LL MURDER HIM!!


GA (GRAB)
ガッ
!?
YO...
......GOOD TO SEE YOU ALIVE AND KICKING...
T...TETSUZOU!
I WAS WONDERIN' WHAT ALL THE FUSS WAS ABOUT...
......
IF YOU WANTED SOME ATTENTION, YOU SHOULDA CALLED ME...


C'MON, BOYS! WE'RE TAKIN' OFF!!
……
……
GOD-DAMMIT!!
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!!
……
THIS AIN'T OVER YET! MARK MY WORDS!!
HEY, KID!!
……
……


LET'S HEAR AN EXPLANATION, BUB...
......
......
AH...
BURU (TREMBLE) ブル
BURU ブル
BURU ブル
...AAAH...
GAFA (FLOMP)
がばあっ
I'M SO SORRY!!
I CANNOT IMAGINE THAT THOSE BARBARIANS HAVE DRIVEN OFF FOR GOOD......
......

ROME & BATHS, THE LOVES OF MY LIFE

A few months ago, I saw a stylish little time travel movie called *Midnight in Paris* directed by Woody Allen. An aspiring writer from America with a longing for the literary world of 1920s Paris winds up there somehow, where he meets a woman who hates her era and wishes for a return to the Belle Époque. From there, they travel further back in time, and I was eagerly hoping that the story might continue down that rabbit hole until they met someone who claimed the Mesopotamians were the pinnacle of human culture. But, of course, the film did not pursue anything quite that absurd.

Yet it's undoubtable that in every age, there are people who come into contact with the records of the past and think that things were better back then. I've fallen so in love with ancient Rome that I'm living out a long-term two-dimensional time travel escapade, and I'm sure that even some Romans wished they could have lived further back in history.

Not only was Emperor Hadrian an avowed enthusiast of Greek culture, it was a status symbol among wealthy Romans to display antiques from Greece and Egypt in their homes. It's unknown whether or not the first advanced culture of Sumeria contained individuals with a taste for the past, but I choose to think that all human beings possess the potential to hold longing for either the past or future. That sensation is only accentuated when you discover an item from the past that seems fresh and unlike anything made today, or contains a heretofore unappreciated sophistication.

One of Palladio's creations

Palladio, Renaissance architect

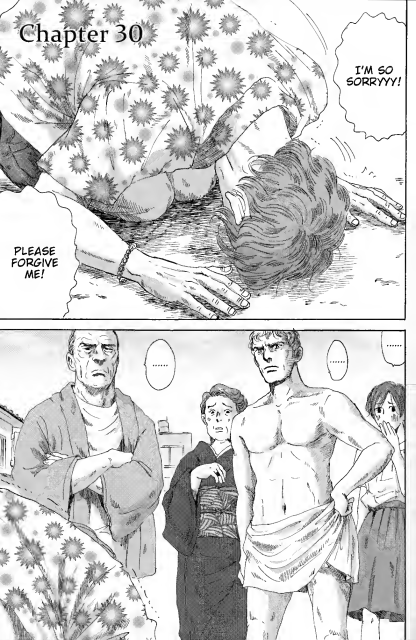
The Renaissance itself was a manifestation of that European astonishment over the advanced culture of the Greeks and Romans. The foremost architect of Italy during this period was Palladio, who was so impressed by the scale of the culture evoked by the great Roman ruins that he integrated the work of architects and craftsmen who lived a millennium before his time into his own style, producing some of the greatest buildings in existence today.

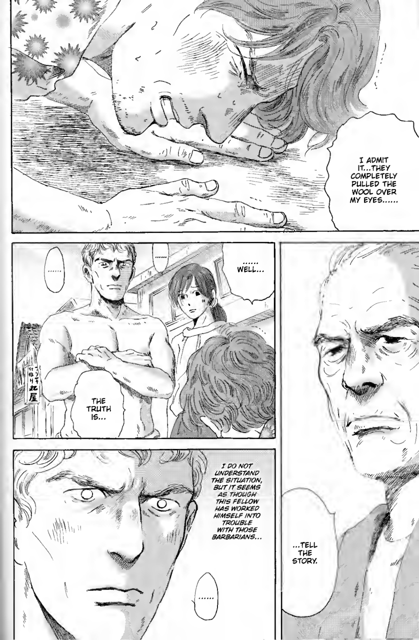
I myself was shocked at the sight of the ruins in Paestum in southern Italy, buildings constructed by Greek colonists. Before me I saw the undying majesty of a Greek temple built in 500 BC, twenty-five hundred years ago. With the passage of time, the mortar and paint might have worn off, but the formidable construction and conviction in its creation has only grown bolder. Additionally surprising was the foresight to construct these temples on massive bedrock to protect against earthquake damage. It's hard to say whether the Romans who lived here after the Greek colonists were fully cognizant of just what remarkable buildings these were, but countless people must have been struck at what miraculous things mankind is capable of creating.

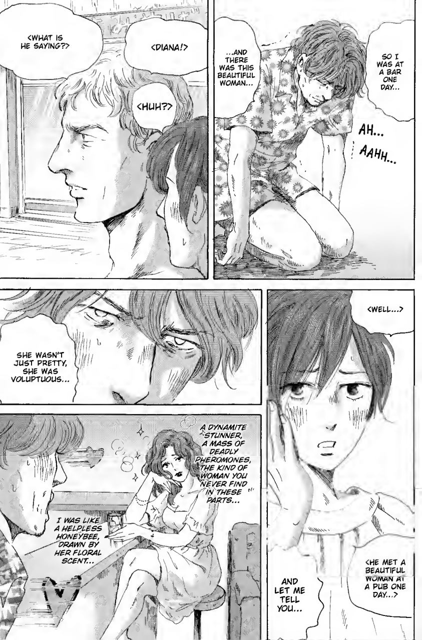
Respect for the past not only instills humility, it also stimulates the productive drive. I urge everyone, given time, to visit an ancient city or museum to come into contact with the works of our ancestors. You never know what kind of renaissance might come about.

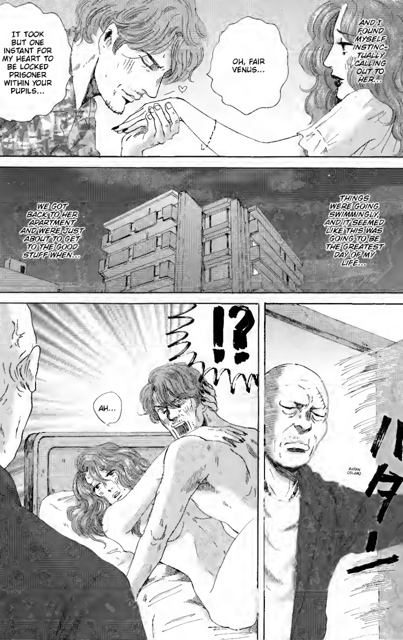
A temple in Paestum

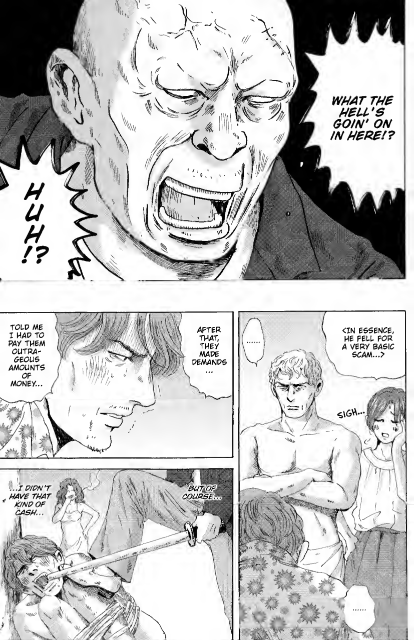
Chapter 30

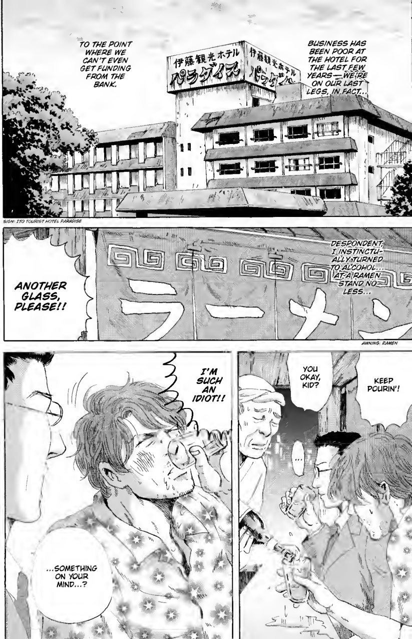

I'M SO SORRYYY!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
......
......
......


I ADMIT IT...THEY COMPLETELY PULLED THE WOOL OVER MY EYES......
...TELL THE STORY.
......WELL...
......
......
丸屋
THE TRUTH IS...
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION, BUT IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THIS FELLOW HAS WORKED HIMSELF INTO TROUBLE WITH THOSE BARBARIANS...
......

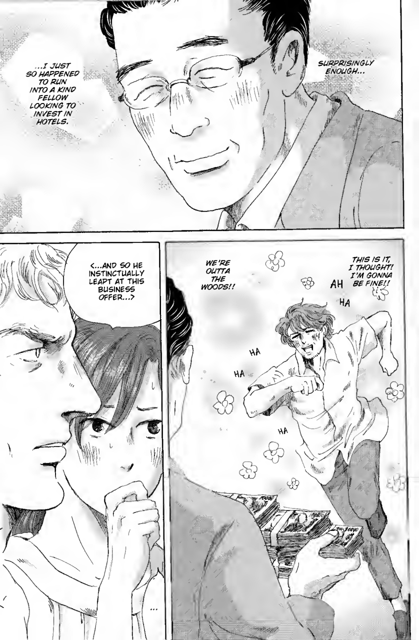

SO I WAS AT A BAR ONE DAY...
...AND THERE WAS THIS BEAUTIFUL WOMAN...
AH...
AAHH...
<WHAT IS HE SAYING?>
<DIANA!?>
<HUH?>
SHE WASN'T JUST PRETTY, SHE WAS VOLUPTUOUS...
<WELL...>
A DYNAMITE STUNNER, A MASS OF DEADLY PHEROMONES, THE KIND OF WOMAN YOU NEVER FIND IN THESE PARTS...
I WAS LIKE A HELPLESS HONEYBEE, DRAWN BY HER FLORAL SCENT...
AND LET ME TELL YOU...
<HE MET A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN AT A PUB ONE DAY...>

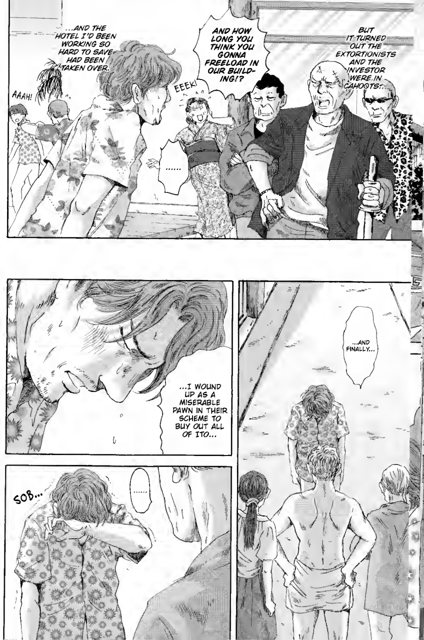

AND I FOUND MYSELF INSTINCTUALLY CALLING OUT TO HER...
OH, FAIR VENUS...
IT TOOK BUT ONE INSTANT FOR MY HEART TO BE LOCKED PRISONER WITHIN YOUR PUPILS...
THINGS WERE GOING SWIMMINGLY, AND IT SEEMED LIKE THIS WAS GOING TO BE THE GREATEST DAY OF MY LIFE...
WE GOT BACK TO HER APARTMENT AND WERE JUST ABOUT TO GET TO THE GOOD STUFF WHEN...
バターン
BATAN (SLAM)
!?
AH...

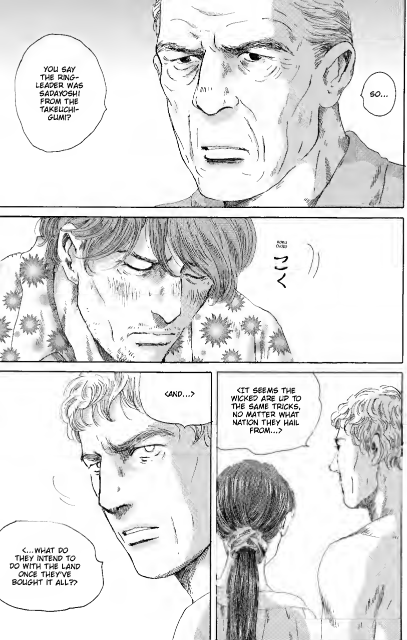

WHAT THE HELL'S GOIN' ON IN HERE!?
HUH!?
AFTER THAT, THEY MADE DEMANDS...
TOLD ME I HAD TO PAY THEM OUTRAGEOUS AMOUNTS OF MONEY...
BUT OF COURSE...
...I DIDN'T HAVE THAT KIND OF CASH...
......
<IN ESSENCE, HE FELL FOR A VERY BASIC SCAM...>
SIGH...
......

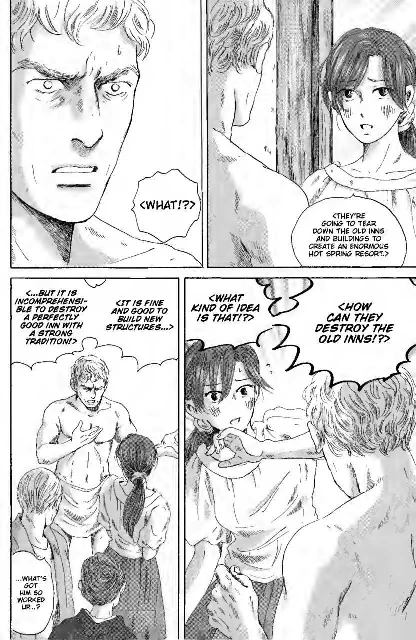


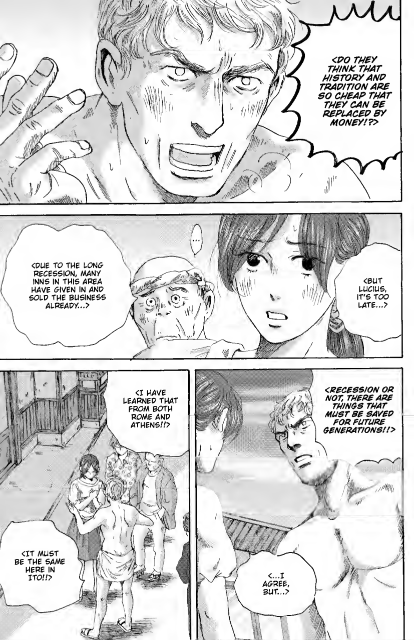
BUSINESS HAS BEEN POOR AT THE HOTEL FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS—WE'RE ON OUR LAST LEGS, IN FACT...
TO THE POINT WHERE WE CAN'T EVEN GET FUNDING FROM THE BANK.
伊藤観光ホテル パラダイス
SIGN: ITO TOURIST HOTEL PARADISE
DESPONDENT, I INSTINCTUALLY TURNED TO ALCOHOL... AT A RAMEN STAND NO LESS...
ANOTHER GLASS, PLEASE!!
ラーメン
AWNING: RAMEN
KEEP POURIN'!
YOU OKAY, KID?
...
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!!
...SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND...?

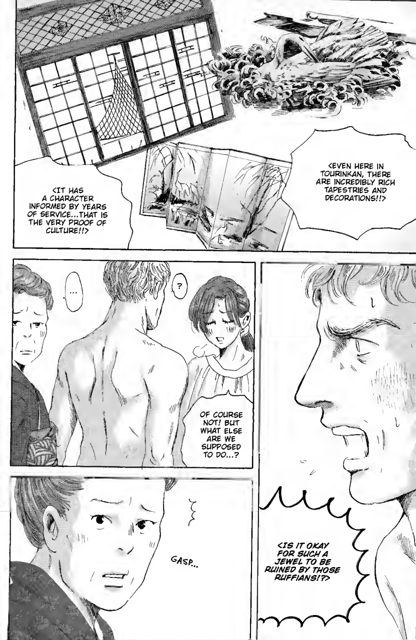

SURPRISINGLY ENOUGH...
...I JUST SO HAPPENED TO RUN INTO A KIND FELLOW LOOKING TO INVEST IN HOTELS.
THIS IS IT, I THOUGHT! I'M GONNA BE FINE!!
AH HA
WE'RE OUTTA THE WOODS!!
HA
HA
HA
<...AND SO HE INSTINCTUALLY LEAPT AT THIS BUSINESS OFFER...>
...

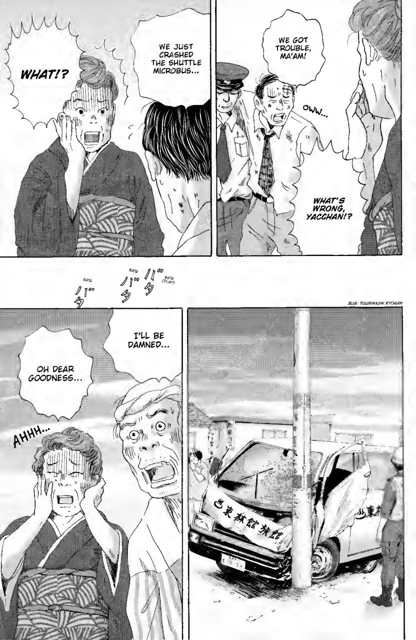

BUT IT TURNED OUT THE EXTORTIONISTS AND THE INVESTOR WERE IN CAHOOTS...
AND HOW LONG YOU THINK YOU GONNA FREELOAD IN OUR BUILDING!?
EEEK!
......
...AND THE HOTEL I'D BEEN WORKING SO HARD TO SAVE HAD BEEN TAKEN OVER.
AAAH!
...AND FINALLY...
...I WOUND UP AS A MISERABLE PAWN IN THEIR SCHEME TO BUY OUT ALL OF ITO...
......
SOB...

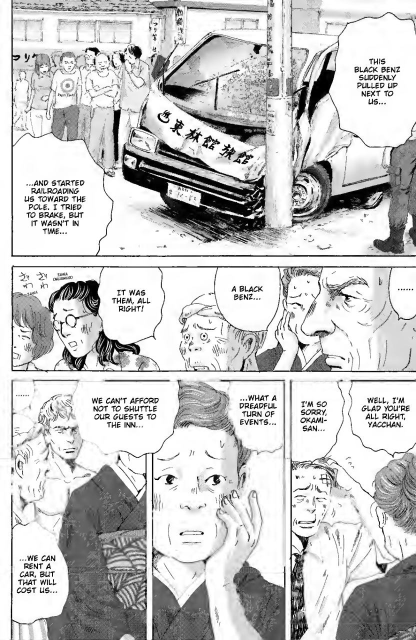

SO...
YOU SAY THE RING-LEADER WAS SADAYOSHI FROM THE TAKEUCHI-GUMI?
KOKU (NOD)
こく
<IT SEEMS THE WICKED ARE UP TO THE SAME TRICKS, NO MATTER WHAT NATION THEY HAIL FROM...>
<AND...>
<...WHAT DO THEY INTEND TO DO WITH THE LAND ONCE THEY'VE BOUGHT IT ALL?>

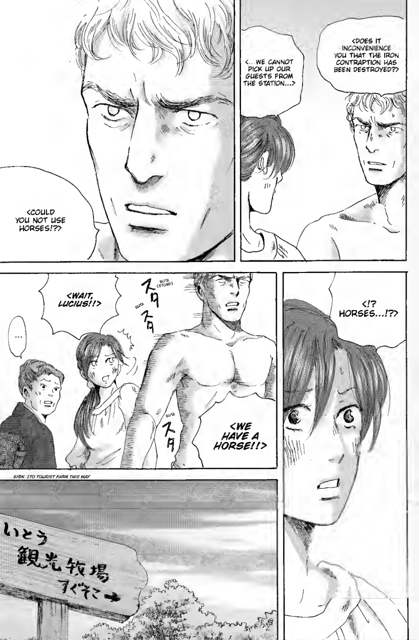

<THEY'RE GOING TO TEAR DOWN THE OLD INNS AND BUILDINGS TO CREATE AN ENORMOUS HOT SPRING RESORT.>
<WHAT!?>
<HOW CAN THEY DESTROY THE OLD INNS!?>
<WHAT KIND OF IDEA IS THAT!?>
<IT IS FINE AND GOOD TO BUILD NEW STRUCTURES...>
<...BUT IT IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE TO DESTROY A PERFECTLY GOOD INN WITH A STRONG TRADITION!>
...WHAT'S GOT HIM SO WORKED UP...?

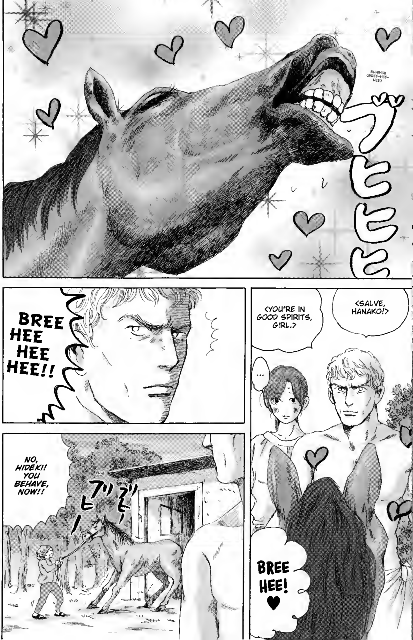

<DO THEY THINK THAT HISTORY AND TRADITION ARE SO CHEAP THAT THEY CAN BE REPLACED BY MONEY!?>
<BUT LUCIUS, IT'S TOO LATE...>
...
<DUE TO THE LONG RECESSION, MANY INNS IN THIS AREA HAVE GIVEN IN AND SOLD THE BUSINESS ALREADY...>
<RECESSION OR NOT, THERE ARE THINGS THAT MUST BE SAVED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS!!>
<...I AGREE, BUT...>
<I HAVE LEARNED THAT FROM BOTH ROME AND ATHENS!!>
<IT MUST BE THE SAME HERE IN ITO!!>

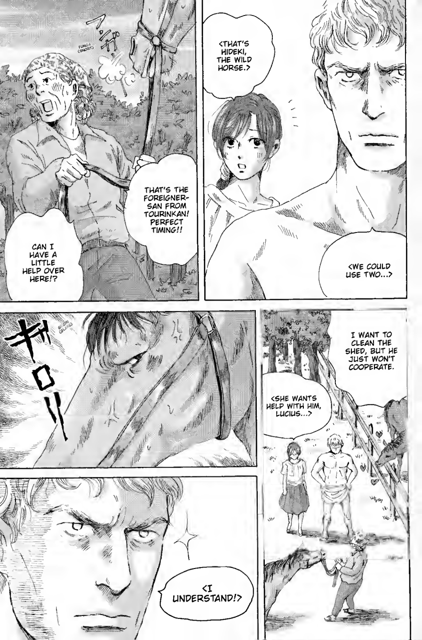

<EVEN HERE IN TOURINKAN, THERE ARE INCREDIBLY RICH TAPESTRIES AND DECORATIONS!!>
<IT HAS A CHARACTER INFORMED BY YEARS OF SERVICE...THAT IS THE VERY PROOF OF CULTURE!!>
<IS IT OKAY FOR SUCH A JEWEL TO BE RUINED BY THOSE RUFFIANS!?>
?
...
OF COURSE NOT! BUT WHAT ELSE ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO...?
GASP...

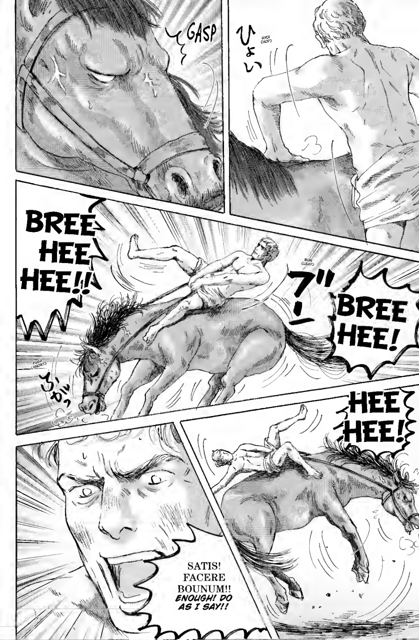

WE GOT TROUBLE, MA'AM!
OWW...
WHAT'S WRONG, YACCHAN!?
WE JUST CRASHED THE SHUTTLE MICROBUS...
WHAT!?
バタ BATA (FLAP)
バタ BATA
バタ BATA
BUS: TOURINKAN RYOKAN
東林館旅館
I'LL BE DAMNED...
OH DEAR GOODNESS...
AHHH...

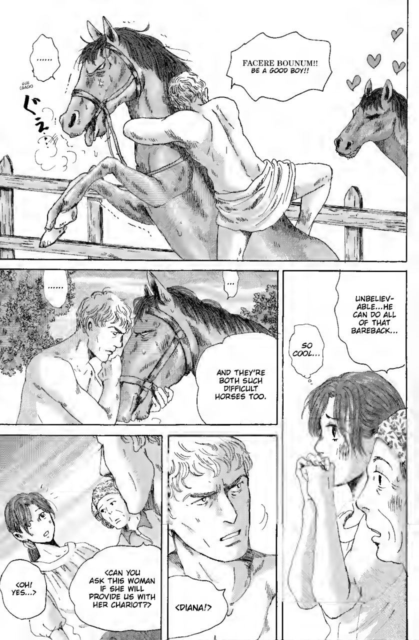

THIS BLACK BENZ SUDDENLY PULLED UP NEXT TO US...
...AND STARTED RAILROADING US TOWARD THE POLE. I TRIED TO BRAKE, BUT IT WASN'T IN TIME...
東林館旅館
......
A BLACK BENZ...
IT WAS THEM, ALL RIGHT!
ZAWA (MURMUR)
ZAWA
WELL, I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, YACCHAN.
I'M SO SORRY, OKAMI-SAN...
...WHAT A DREADFUL TURN OF EVENTS...
WE CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO SHUTTLE OUR GUESTS TO THE INN...
......
...WE CAN RENT A CAR, BUT THAT WILL COST US...

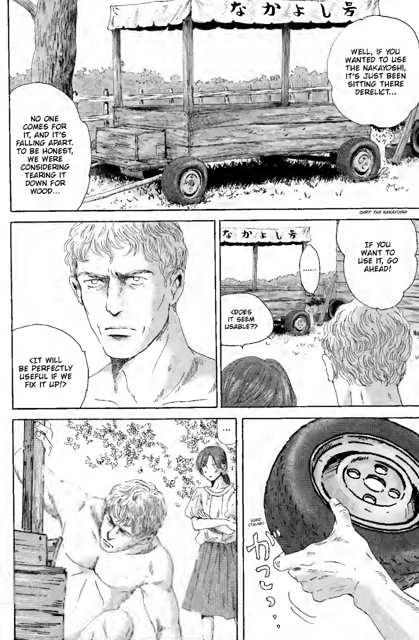

<DOES IT INCONVENIENCE YOU THAT THE IRON CONTRAPTION HAS BEEN DESTROYED?>
<...WE CANNOT PICK UP OUR GUESTS FROM THE STATION...>
<COULD YOU NOT USE HORSES!?>
<!? HORSES...!?>
スタ SUTA (STOMP)
<WAIT, LUCIUS!!>
スタ SUTA
...
<WE HAVE A HORSE!!>
スタ SUTA
SIGN: ITO TOURIST FARM THIS WAY
いとう
観光牧場
すぐそこ→

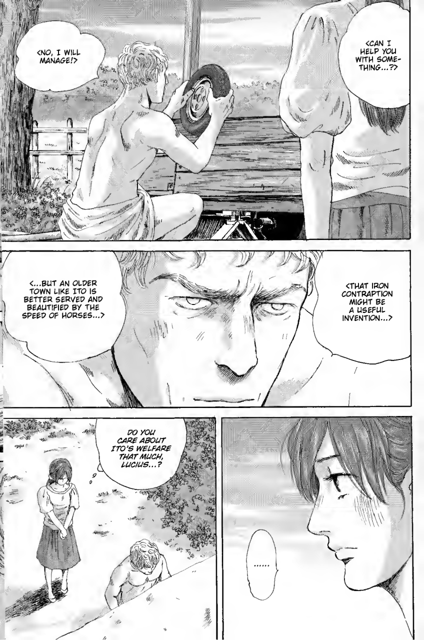

ブヒヒヒ
BUHIHIHI (BREE-HEE-HEE)
<SALVE, HANAKO!>
<YOU'RE IN GOOD SPIRITS, GIRL.>
...
BREE HEE! ♥
BREE HEE HEE HEE!!
ブリヒー
BUHI
フリヒー
BUHI
NO, HIDEKI! YOU BEHAVE, NOW!!

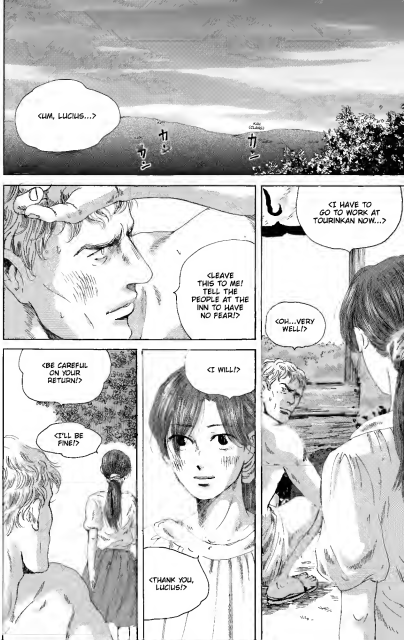

<THAT'S HIDEKI, THE WILD HORSE.>
<WE COULD USE TWO...>
FUNGA (SNORT)
THAT'S THE FOREIGNER-SAN FROM TOURINKAN! PERFECT TIMING!!
CAN I HAVE A LITTLE HELP OVER HERE!?
I WANT TO CLEAN THE SHED, BUT HE JUST WON'T COOPERATE.
<SHE WANTS HELP WITH HIM, LUCIUS...>
GIRORI (GLARE)
<I UNDERSTAND!>

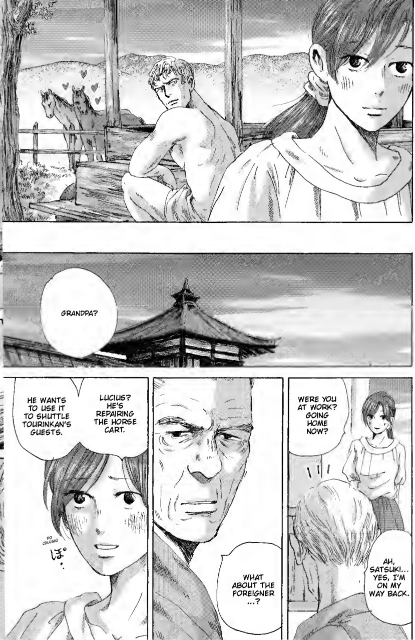

ひょい
HYOI (HOP)
GASP
BREE HEE!
ブン
BUN (LEAP)
BREE HEE HEE!!
ふがっ
FUGA (SNORT)
HEE HEE!
SATIS! FACERE BOUNUM!!
ENOUGH! DO AS I SAY!!

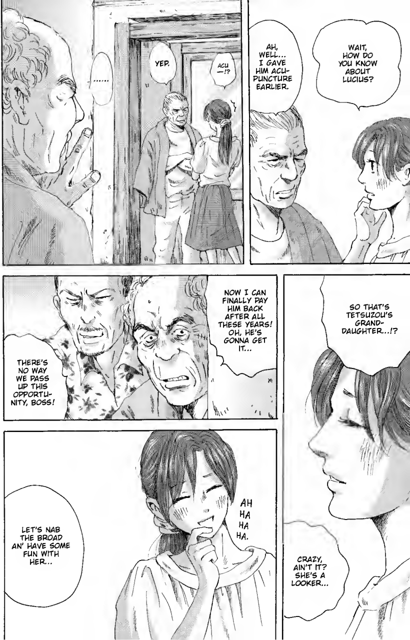

......
GUE (GACK)
ぐえ
FACERE BOUNUM!!
BE A GOOD BOY!!
......
...
AND THEY'RE BOTH SUCH DIFFICULT HORSES TOO.
UNBELIEVABLE...HE CAN DO ALL OF THAT BAREBACK...
SO COOL...
<DIANA!>
<CAN YOU ASK THIS WOMAN IF SHE WILL PROVIDE US WITH HER CHARIOT?>
<OH! YES...>


なかよし号
WELL, IF YOU WANTED TO USE THE NAKAYOSHI, IT'S JUST BEEN SITTING THERE DERELICT...
NO ONE COMES FOR IT, AND IT'S FALLING APART. TO BE HONEST, WE WERE CONSIDERING TEARING IT DOWN FOR WOOD...
CART: THE NAKAYOSHI
なかよし号
IF YOU WANT TO USE IT, GO AHEAD!
......
<DOES IT SEEM USABLE?>
<IT WILL BE PERFECTLY USEFUL IF WE FIX IT UP!>
がこっ
GAKO (THUNK)
...

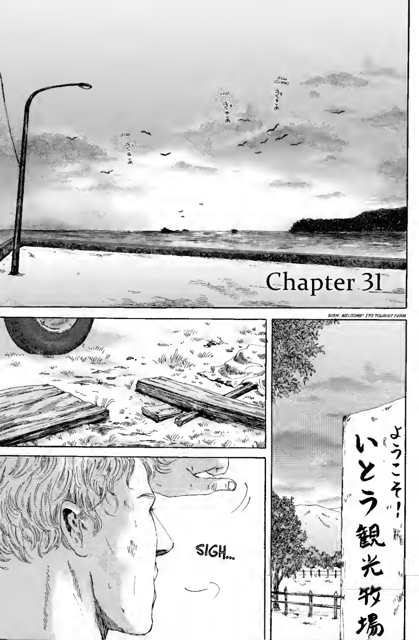

<CAN I HELP YOU WITH SOMETHING...?>
<NO, I WILL MANAGE!>
<THAT IRON CONTRAPTION MIGHT BE A USEFUL INVENTION...>
<...BUT AN OLDER TOWN LIKE ITO IS BETTER SERVED AND BEAUTIFIED BY THE SPEED OF HORSES...>
......
DO YOU CARE ABOUT ITO'S WELFARE THAT MUCH, LUCIUS...?

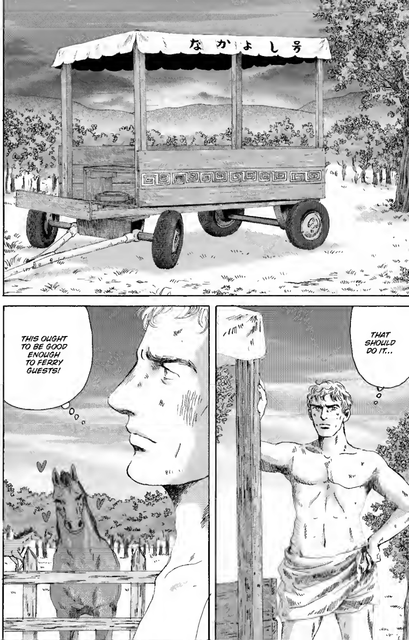

<UM, LUCIUS...>
KAN
カン
KAN (CLANG)
カン
KAN
カン
<I HAVE TO GO TO WORK AT TOURINKAN NOW...>
<OH...VERY WELL!>
<LEAVE THIS TO ME! TELL THE PEOPLE AT THE INN TO HAVE NO FEAR!>
<I WILL!>
<THANK YOU, LUCIUS!>
<BE CAREFUL ON YOUR RETURN!>
<I'LL BE FINE!>

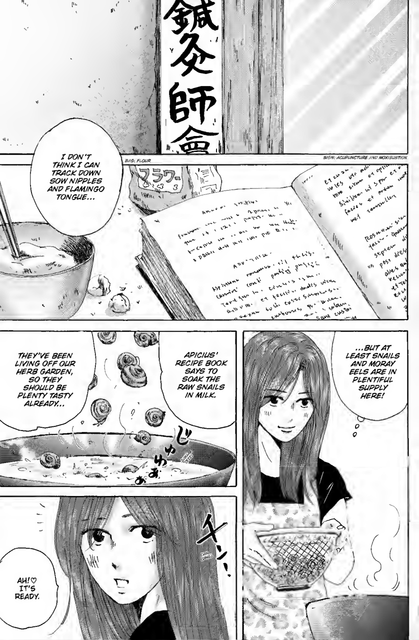

GRANDPA?
WERE YOU AT WORK? GOING HOME NOW?
AH, SATSUKI... YES, I'M ON MY WAY BACK.
WHAT ABOUT THE FOREIGNER ...?
LUCIUS? HE'S REPAIRING THE HORSE CART.
HE WANTS TO USE IT TO SHUTTLE TOURINKAN'S GUESTS.
PO (BLUSH)
ぽ

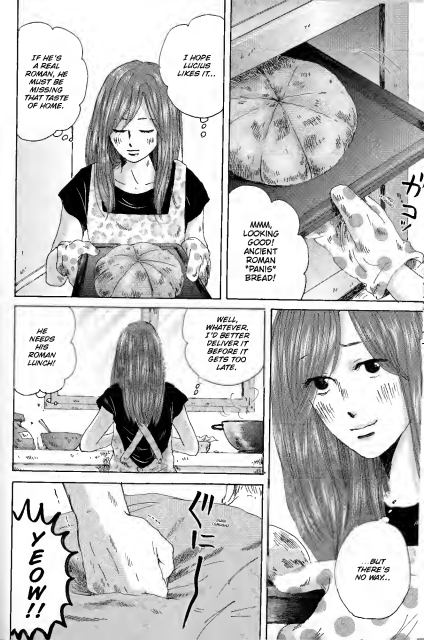

WAIT, HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT LUCIUS?
AH, WELL... I GAVE HIM ACUPUNCTURE EARLIER.
ACU—!?
YEP.
......
SO THAT'S TETSUZOU'S GRANDDAUGHTER...!?
CRAZY, AIN'T IT? SHE'S A LOOKER...
NOW I CAN FINALLY PAY HIM BACK AFTER ALL THESE YEARS! OH, HE'S GONNA GET IT...
THERE'S NO WAY WE PASS UP THIS OPPORTUNITY, BOSS!
AH HA HA HA.
LET'S NAB THE BROAD AN' HAVE SOME FUN WITH HER...

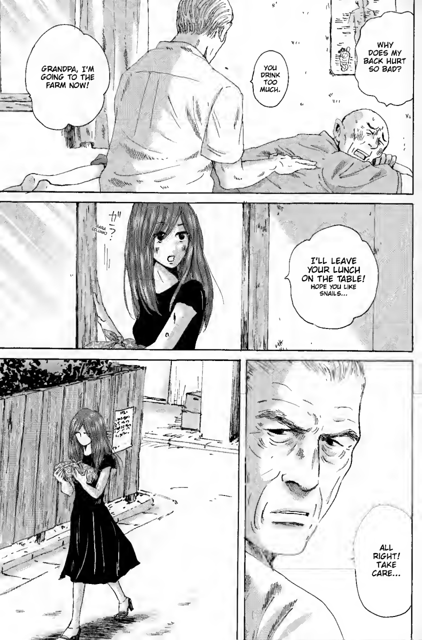
Chapter 31

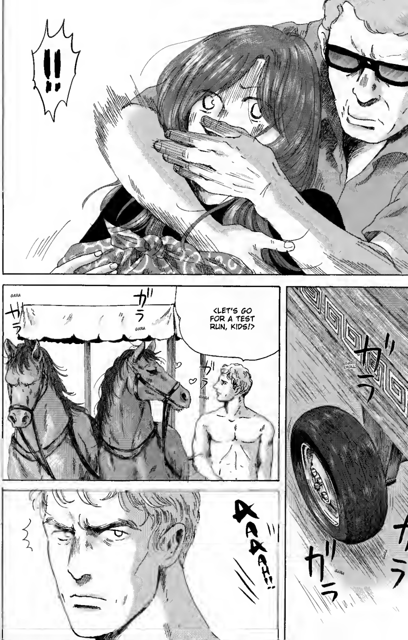

GYAA (CAWW)
ぎゃあ
GYAA
ぎゃあ
GYAA
ぎゃあ
SIGN: WELCOME! ITO TOURIST FARM
ようこそ！
いとう観光牧場
SIGH...

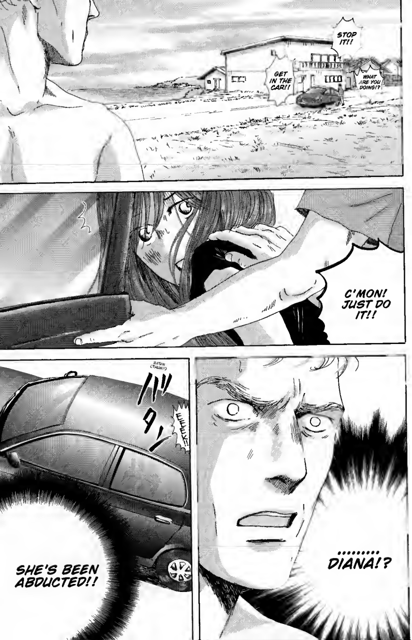

なかよし号
THAT SHOULD DO IT...
THIS OUGHT TO BE GOOD ENOUGH TO FERRY GUESTS!

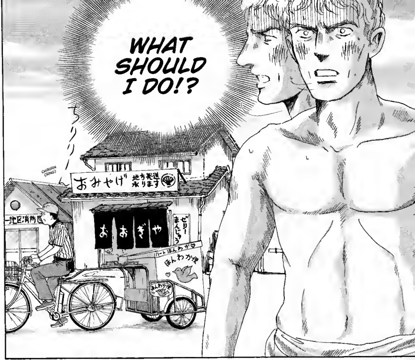

鍼灸師會
SIGN: ACUPUNCTURE AND MOXIBUSTION
BAG: FLOUR
フラワー
I DON'T THINK I CAN TRACK DOWN SOW NIPPLES AND FLAMINGO TONGUE...
...BUT AT LEAST SNAILS AND MORAY EELS ARE IN PLENTIFUL SUPPLY HERE!
APICIUS' RECIPE BOOK SAYS TO SOAK THE RAW SNAILS IN MILK.
THEY'VE BEEN LIVING OFF OUR HERB GARDEN, SO THEY SHOULD BE PLENTY TASTY ALREADY...
じゅわぁぁ
JUWAAA (FIZZ)
チン!
CHIN (DING)
AH!♡ IT'S READY.


ガコッ
GAKO (KTHUNK)
MMM, LOOKING GOOD! ANCIENT ROMAN "PANIS" BREAD!
I HOPE LUCIUS LIKES IT...
IF HE'S A REAL ROMAN, HE MUST BE MISSING THAT TASTE OF HOME.
...BUT THERE'S NO WAY...
WELL, WHATEVER. I'D BETTER DELIVER IT BEFORE IT GETS TOO LATE.
HE NEEDS HIS ROMAN LUNCH!
ぐにー
GUNI (SMUSH)
YEOW!!

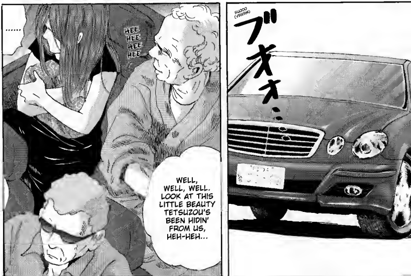

WHY DOES MY BACK HURT SO BAD?
YOU DRINK TOO MUCH.
GRANDPA, I'M GOING TO THE FARM NOW!
I'LL LEAVE YOUR LUNCH ON THE TABLE! HOPE YOU LIKE SNAILS...
ガラ
GARA (CLUNK)
ALL RIGHT! TAKE CARE...

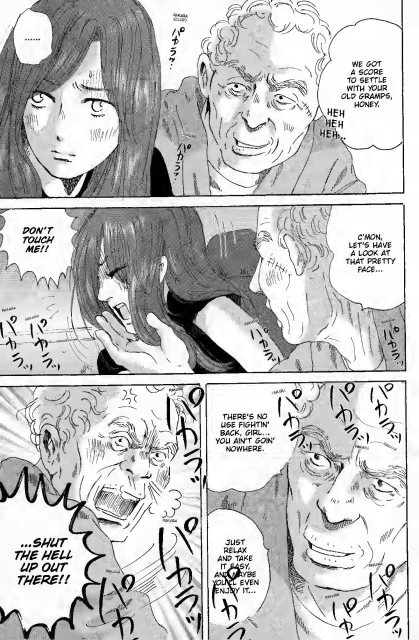

!!
ガラ
GARA (ROLL)
ガラ
GARA
ガラ
GARA
<LET'S GO FOR A TEST RUN, KIDS!>
ガラ
GARA
ガラ
GARA
ガラ
GARA
AAAAH!!

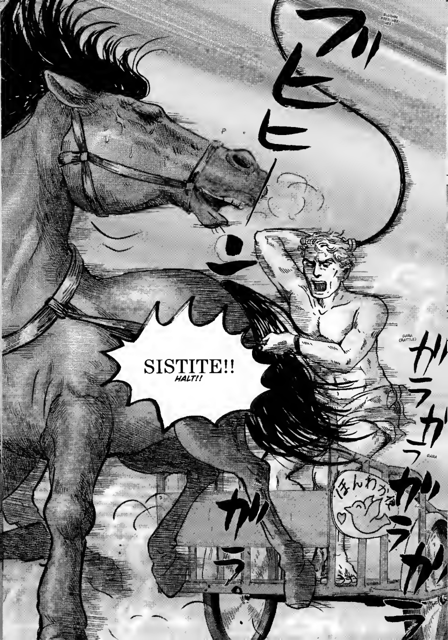

STOP IT!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
GET IN THE CAR!!
C'MON! JUST DO IT!!
..........DIANA!?
BATAN (THUMP)
バタン
EEEK!!
SHE'S BEEN ABDUCTED!!

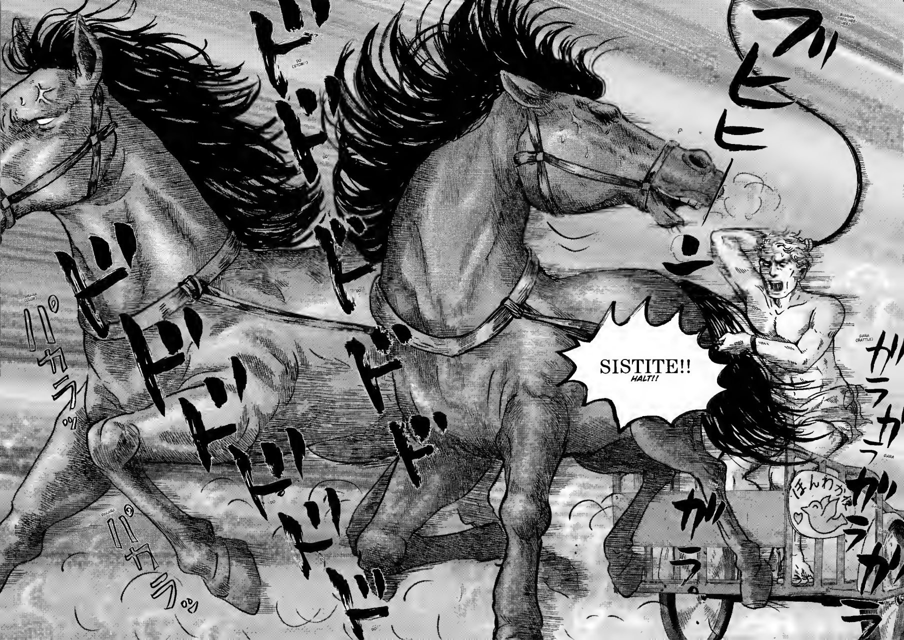

WHAT SHOULD I DO!?
ちりりりん
CHIRIRIN (RING)
おみやげ
地方発送承ります
おおぎや
ゼリーまんじゅう
ハートほんわか便
ほんわか便
一北区消防団

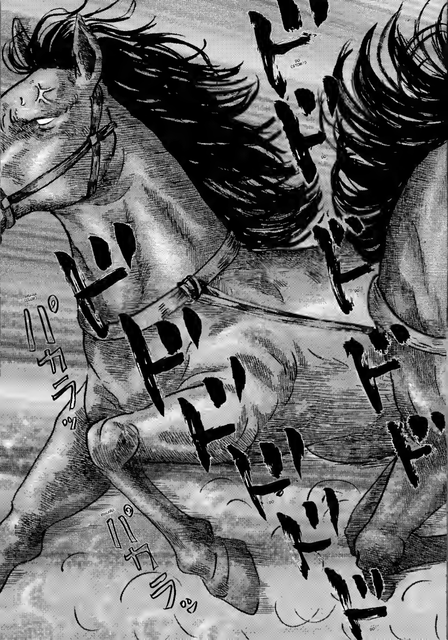
BUILDING: SOUVENIRS - WE WILL SHIP / CART: HONWAKA COURIER

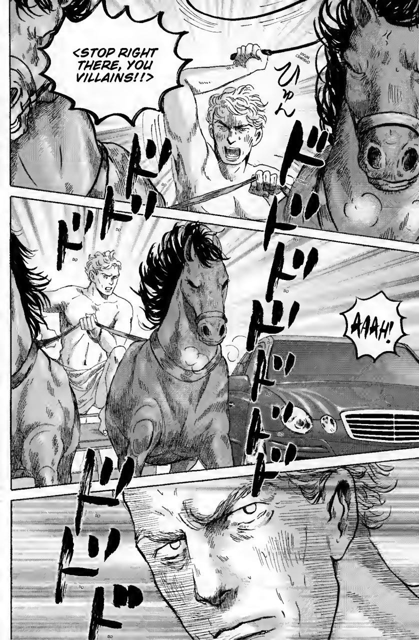

ブオオ…
BUOOO (VRRRM)
HEE HEE HEE HEE
WELL, WELL, WELL. LOOK AT THIS LITTLE BEAUTY TETSUZOU'S BEEN HIDIN' FROM US, HEH-HEH...
......

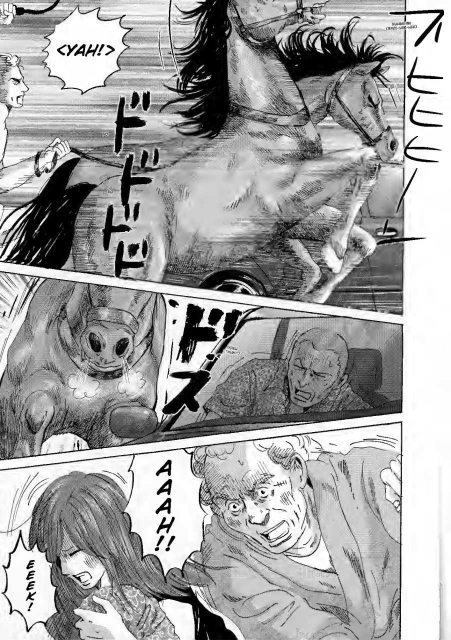

PAKARA (CLOP)
パカラッ…
WE GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH YOUR OLD GRAMPS, HONEY.
HEH HEH HEH...
PAKARA
パカラッ…
......
C'MON, LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT THAT PRETTY FACE...
PAKARA
パカラッ
PAKARA
パカラッ
PAKARA
パカラッ
PAKARA
パカラッ
DON'T TOUCH ME!!
PAKARA
パカラッ
PAKARA
パカラッ
THERE'S NO USE FIGHTIN' BACK, GIRL... YOU AIN'T GOIN' NOWHERE.
JUST RELAX AND TAKE IT EASY, AND MAYBE YOU'LL EVEN ENJOY IT...
PAKARA
パカラッ
PAKARA
パカ
PAKARA
パカラッ
PAKARA
パカラッ
PAKARA
パカ
...SHUT THE HELL UP OUT THERE!!

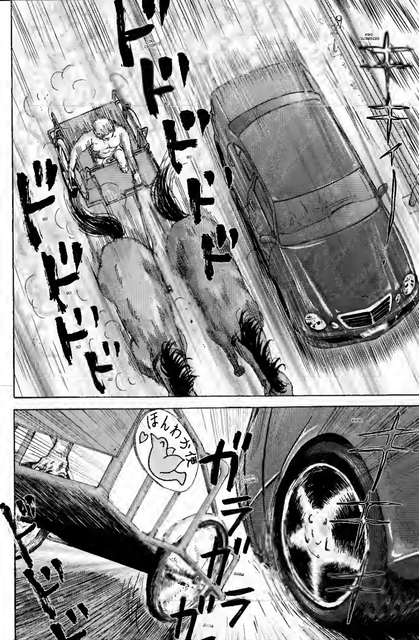

ブヒヒン
BUHIHIN (BREE-HEE HEE)
SISTITE!!
HALT!!
ガラガラ
GARA (RATTLE)
GARA
GARA
GARA
ガラガラ
ほんわかな

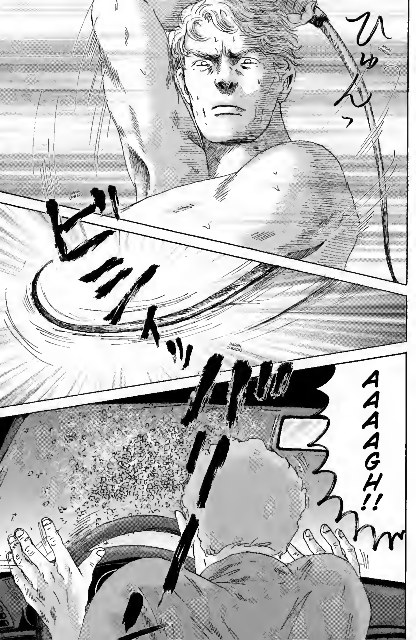

ブヒヒーン
BUHIHIN (SCREECHES)
SISTITE!!
HALT!!
ガラガラ
GARA (RATTLE)
GARA
GARA
DO (STOMP)
ドドド
DO
PAKARA (CLOP)
パカラッ
PAKARA
パカラッ
DO

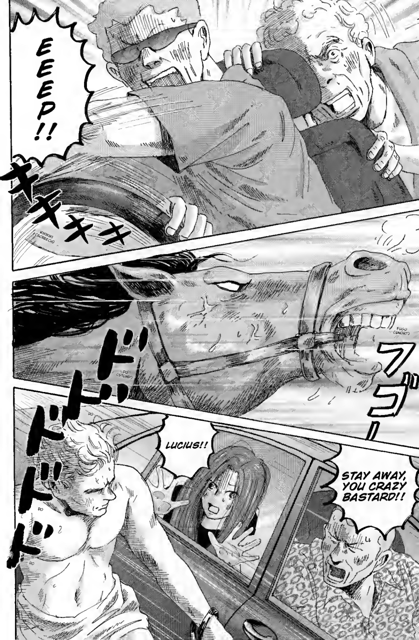

ドッドッドッドッ
DO (STOMP)
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
ドッドッドッドッ
ドッドッドッ
パカラッ
PAKARA (CLOP)
パカラッ
PAKARA

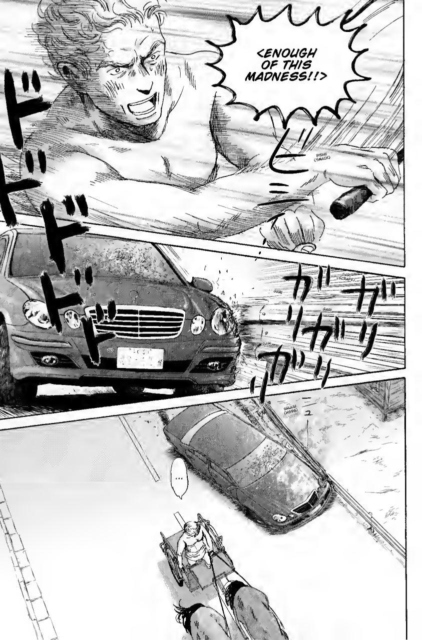

ひゅん
HYUN (SWISH)
<STOP RIGHT THERE, YOU VILLAINS!!>
ドドドッ
DO (STOMP)
AAAH!
ドドドドドッ
DO
DO
DO
DO
ドドッ
DO
DO
DO

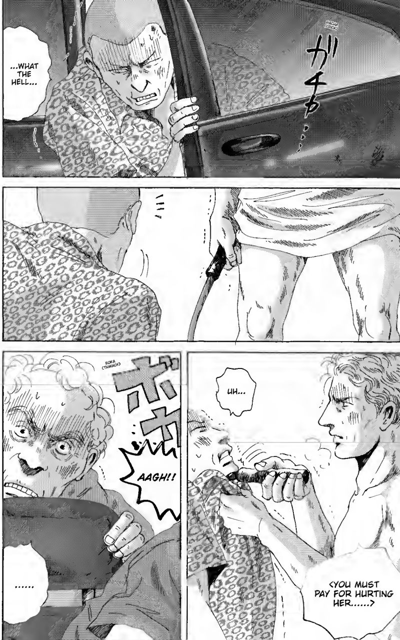

ブヒヒヒーン
BUHIHIIIN (BREE-HEE-HEE)
<YAH!>
ドドドド
DO
DO
DO
ドス
DOSU (THUMP)
AAAAH!!
EEEEK!

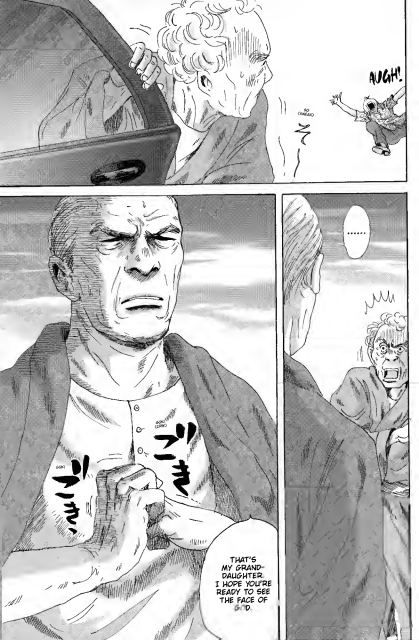

KIKII (SCREECH)
キキィー！
ドドドドドド
DO (STOMP)
DO
ドドドドドド
KIKIKI
キキキ
ガラガラガラ
GARA (CLUNK)
GARA
ほんわか便
ドド

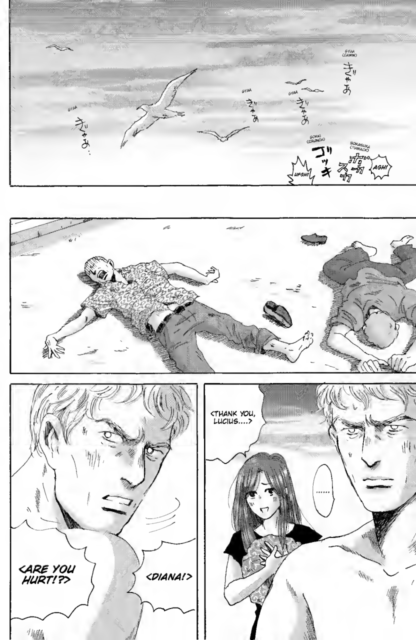

ひゅんっ
HYUN (SWISH)
ビシィッ
BISHI (FWAP)
バリンッ
BARIN (CRACK)
AAAAGH!!

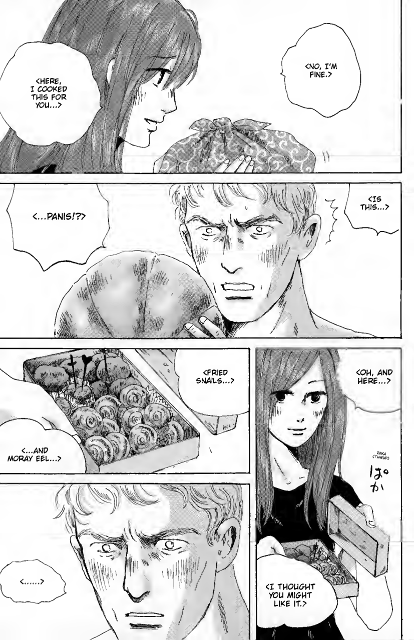

EEEEP!!
キキキキ
KIKIKIKI (SCREECH)
フゴー
FUGO (SNORT)
ドドドドド
DO (STOMP)
DO
STAY AWAY, YOU CRAZY BASTARD!!
LUCIUS!!

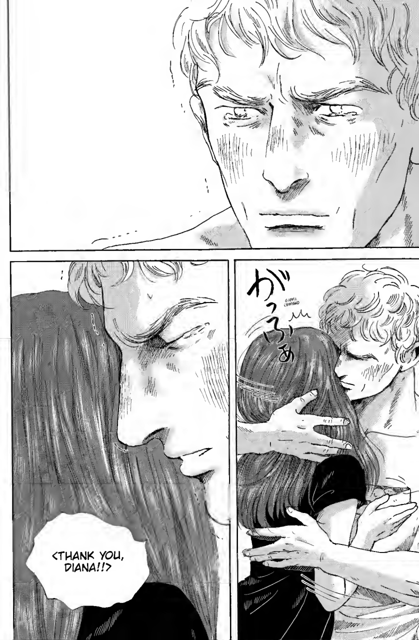

<ENOUGH OF THIS MADNESS!!>
ビシ
BISHI (SMACK)
ドドドドド
DO
ガリ
GARI (SCRAPE)
GARI
GARI
GARI
シュー
SHUUU (HISSS)
...

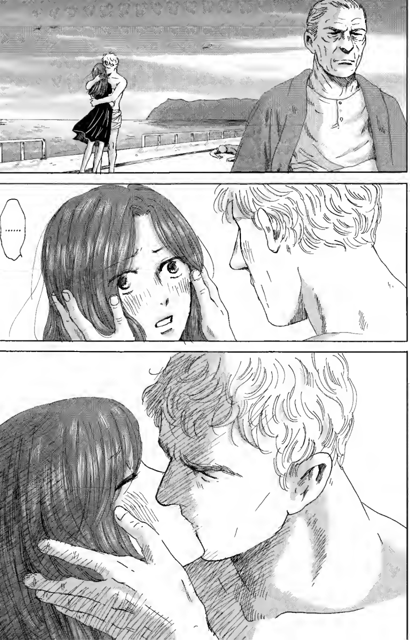

GACHA (CLICK)
ガチャ
...WHAT THE HELL...
UH...
<YOU MUST PAY FOR HURTING HER......>
BOKA (THWACK)
ボカ
AAGH!!
......

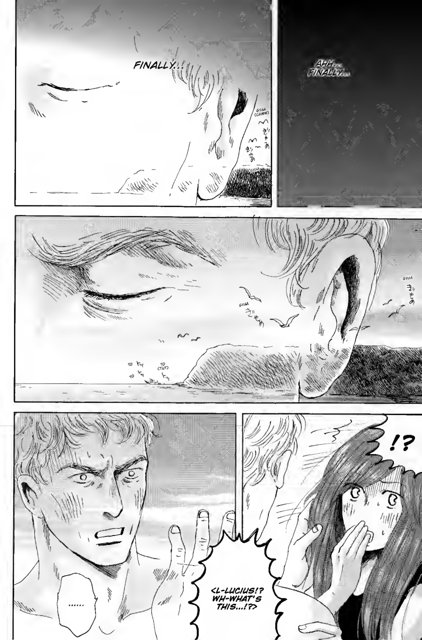

AUGH!
SO (SNEAK)
そ
......
GOKI (CRIK)
ごき
GOKI
ごき
THAT'S MY GRANDDAUGHTER. I HOPE YOU'RE READY TO SEE THE FACE OF GOD.

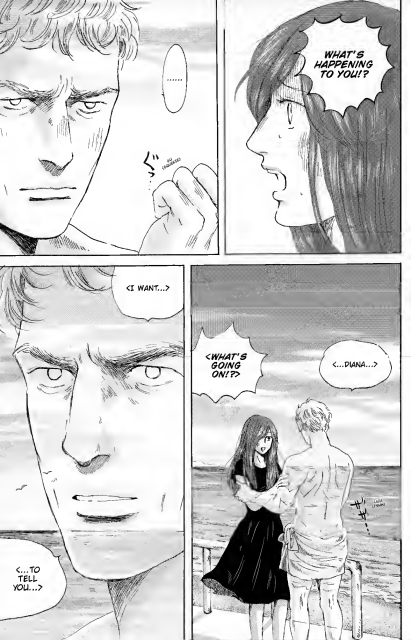

GYAA (CAWW)
きゃあ
GYAA
きゃあ
GYAA
きゃあ
GYAA
きゃあ‥
AGH!
BOKASUKA (THWACK)
ボカスカ
GOKKI (CRUNCH)
ゴッキ
UFGH!
<DIANA!>
<ARE YOU HURT!?>
<THANK YOU, LUCIUS....>
......

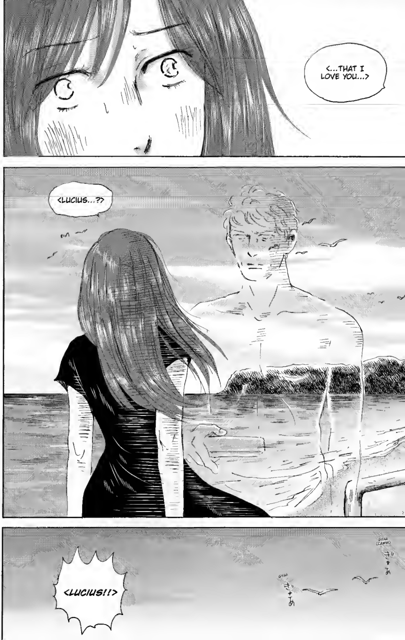

<NO, I'M FINE.>
<HERE, I COOKED THIS FOR YOU...>
<IS THIS...>
<...PANIS!?>
<OH, AND HERE...>
PAKA (THWUP)
ぱか
<FRIED SNAILS...>
<...AND MORAY EEL...>
<I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE IT.>
<......>


がっふぁ
GAFFA (SWISH)
<THANK YOU, DIANA!!>




AHH... FINALLY...
FINALLY...
GYAA (CAWW)
ぎゃあ~
ぎゃあ~
GYAA
ぎゃあ
GYAA
ぎゃあ
TO (TUT)
トッ
TO
トッ
TO
トッ
!?
<L-LUCIUS!? WH-WHAT'S THIS...!?>
……


WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU!?
......
GU (SQUEEZE)
<...DIANA...>
<WHAT'S GOING ON!?>
ZAZA (FSHH)
<I WANT...>
<...TO TELL YOU...>

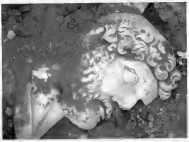

<...THAT I LOVE YOU...>
<LUCIUS...?>
GYAA (CAWW) ぎゃあ
GYAA ぎゃあ
<LUCIUS!!>

"Not another cliffhanger," you exclaim. Forgive me, dear readers. I shall take upon myself the responsibility of following up this latest development in the future, so please look forward to the next volume with all the gentle nourishment of a warm spring sunbeam.

When Lucius returns to Rome, it will be 138 AD. As touched upon within the story, this was a dark period of much physical and mental anguish for Hadrian. After Ceionius had died and Antoninus was accepted as heir and future emperor, Hadrian's mental exhaustion, along with his already unstable health, caused him to live out a nightmare of agony. It is said that he requested sleeping draughts from his father (who died when Hadrian was very young) and dreamed of being devoured by lions. He still very much desired to run the empire, but Antoninus was essentially the de facto emperor while Hadrian was indisposed, as he could hardly do anything but sleep.

Furthermore, because of difficulty breathing due to edema, it became harder for Hadrian to even sleep properly—he was known for consuming large amounts of alcohol, and based on other conditions noted in records, it is likely that he suffered from alcoholic cardiomyopathy. Soon he began to wish for death.

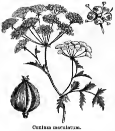
In the days of pre-Christian Rome, suicide was not considered a negative choice, but a means by which a person could maintain dignity, and was even glorified in cases. The philosopher Seneca, for example, stated that to choose death was the greatest act of freedom a human being could commit. Despite this, there are few family and friends who will gladly stand back and watch a loved one die. In particular, Antoninus was a loving man. Despite the



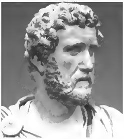
Hadrian being excavated.

protestations of the Senate and people that Hadrian was a tyrant, he was still Antoninus' foster father. Antoninus beseeched Hadrian to control his suicidal urges, begging him not to make the future emperor a "father-killer." Hadrian promised rewards for anyone who would bring him poison or a blade, but none would indulge him. At some point, he succeeded in finding a dagger, but it was quickly taken away. Eventually he called upon his attendant physician, the Greek doctor Hermogenes, ordering him to produce a poison. As I depicted in the manga, Hermogenes chose to take the poison himself rather than allow his emperor to consume it, and this shock was what finally shook Hadrian out of his suicidal mood. He wrote an autobiography of sorts in the form of a letter to Antoninus, and the surviving transcriptions on papyrus contain an apology about his suicidal episode. Hadrian assured his heir that he would not terminate his life before its natural end, suggesting that he was in full possession of his wits once again.

After this, Hadrian moved from his home in Tibur to Baiae, a hot spring region outside of Naples. This by itself should be enough to explain the importance of hot springs to the ancient Romans, but will Lucius succeed at the task he was given for Baiae? You'll have to wait for the next volume to find out.


Conium maculatum.

Hemlock, a popular poison within the Empire



Antoninus Pius the benevolent

Now, I should clarify some things about Lucius' wild behavior in this story arc. Editor-in-Chief Okumura and I were always hoping to have the climax of this particular story feature Lucius riding an ancient Roman chariot through Ito. From the moment this series received a regular serialization slot, I dreamed of having a ridiculous *Ben-Hur* chariot scene racing through a shabby old hot springs town. When it finally came time for the grand two-page spread, I had the famous chariot scene from *Ben-Hur* on repeat in my DVD player, drawing Lucius in his chariot while essentially locked in a trance (and can I say how amazing it is that such a grand, epic movie was made over fifty years ago?).

This development should have made it absolutely clear why I chose to introduce Hanako the horse out of nowhere in the previous volume, and the later addition of Hideki the wild horse was to fill out the sight of a proper two-horse chariot. Editor-in-Chief Okumura really wanted four, like in *Ben-Hur*, but I couldn't arrange for more than two.

Clearly I've strayed a bit from the original concept of comparing bathing cultures, but now that I've come this far, it feels like a waste not to contrast other aspects of ancient Rome and Japan.

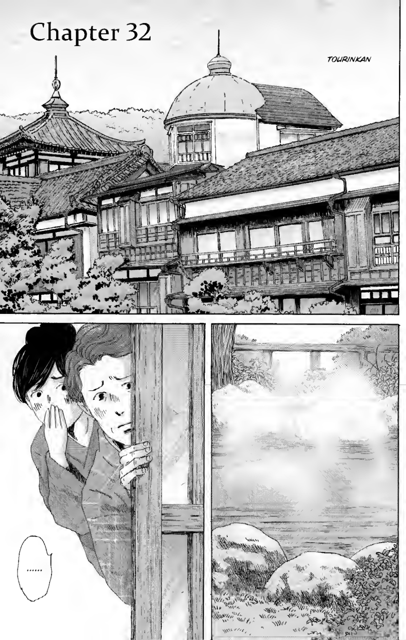
Bronze chariot

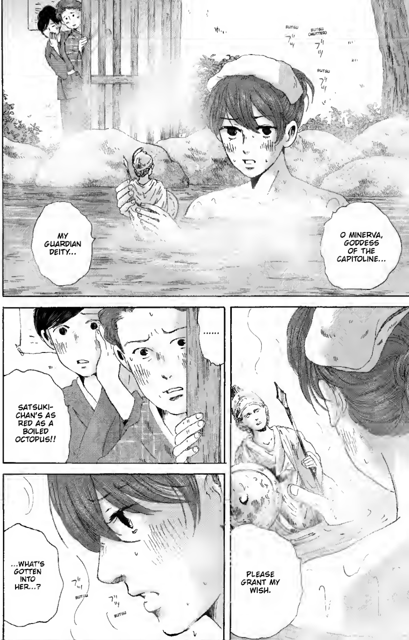
For example, while Hadrian supposedly turned to charms and magic incantations on his deathbed, rational modern Europe is absolutely full of people that do not believe in invisible or supernatural entities outside of God—no ghosts, no goblins. Ghosts were a common fact of life to the Romans, but if you were to claim you saw a ghost in Italy today, you'd either get an icy cold glare or a raucous belly laugh. There might be people with occult interests or hobbies, but the Italian scholars and engineers in my extended family have no truck with that stuff whatsoever. I can't see ghosts for myself, but I can certainly remember watching a TV show on "ghost photographs" as a kid and bawling in terror, so it's not as though the concept doesn't resonate with me at all. I'm sure many Romans would be more than happy to indulge a lady in a conversation about the thirty-year-old memories of ghostly photographs that had been cruelly burned into her mind.

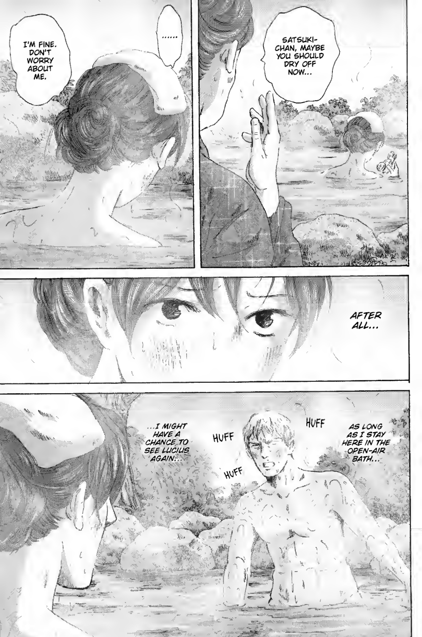
Alas, there doesn't seem to be any room left in Thermae for that particular topic now that we're reaching its climax, so I'll have to cover that in another manga. For now, I'm racing toward the finish line of Thermae Romae like a chariot horse, snorting and panting. Hope to see you in Volume 6!

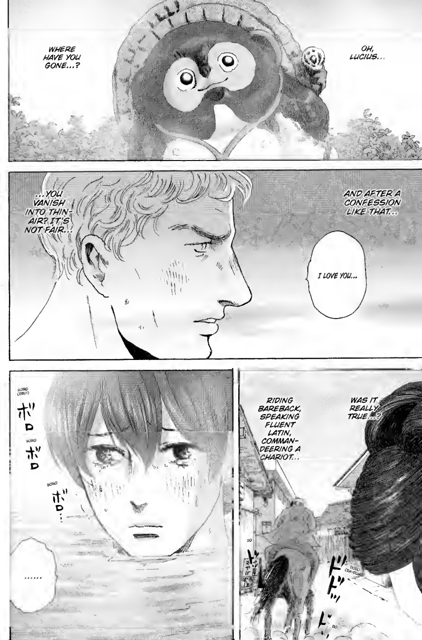
The Circus Maximus, the famous chariot arena

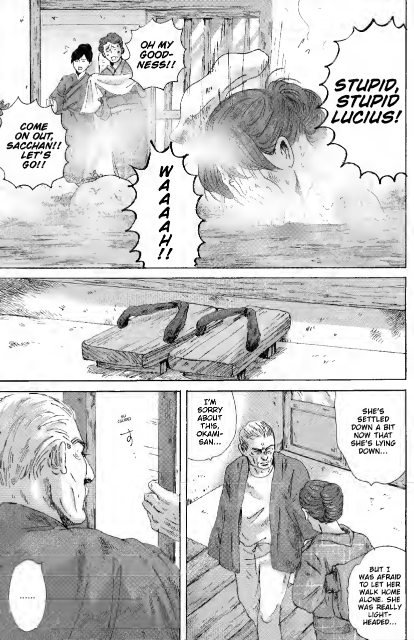
Chapter 32

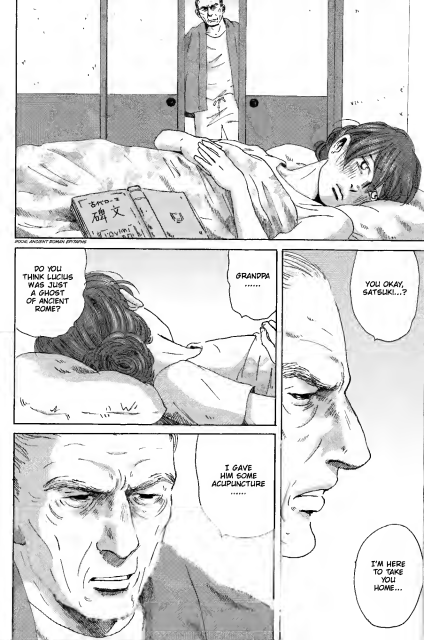


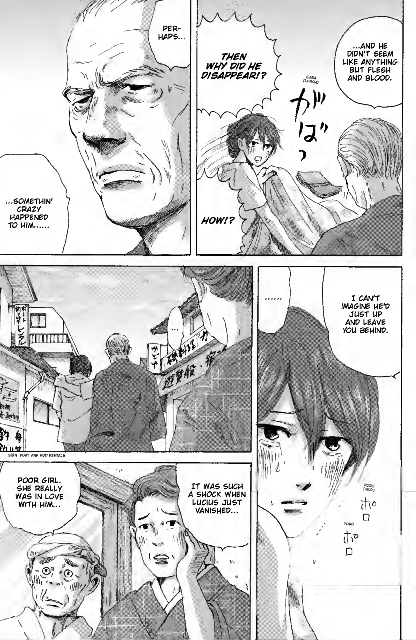

BUTSU
BUTSU (MUTTER)
BUTSU
O MINERVA, GODDESS OF THE CAPITOLINE...
MY GUARDIAN DEITY...
PLEASE GRANT MY WISH.
......
SATSUKI-CHAN'S AS RED AS A BOILED OCTOPUS!!
...WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HER...?
BUTSU
BUTSU


SATSUKI-CHAN, MAYBE YOU SHOULD DRY OFF NOW...
......
I'M FINE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
AFTER ALL...
AS LONG AS I STAY HERE IN THE OPEN-AIR BATH...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
...I MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE TO SEE LUCIUS AGAIN...

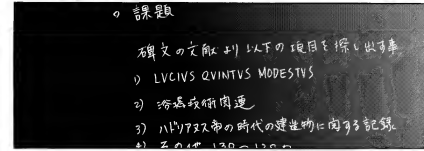

OH, LUCIUS...
WHERE HAVE YOU GONE...?
AND AFTER A CONFESSION LIKE THAT...
I LOVE YOU...
...YOU VANISH INTO THIN-AIR? IT'S NOT FAIR...
WAS IT REALLY TRUE...?
RIDING BAREBACK, SPEAKING FLUENT LATIN, COMMANDEERING A CHARIOT...
ドドッ
DODO (DA-DUM)
ド
DO
ドッ
DO
ボロ
BORO (DRIP)
ボロ
BORO
ボロ…
BORO
……


STUPID, STUPID LUCIUS!
WAAAAAH!!
OH MY GOODNESS!!
COME ON OUT, SACCHAN!! LET'S GO!!
SHE'S SETTLED DOWN A BIT NOW THAT SHE'S LYING DOWN...
I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS, OKAMI-SAN...
BUT I WAS AFRAID TO LET HER WALK HOME ALONE. SHE WAS REALLY LIGHT-HEADED...
SU (SLIDE)
す
......

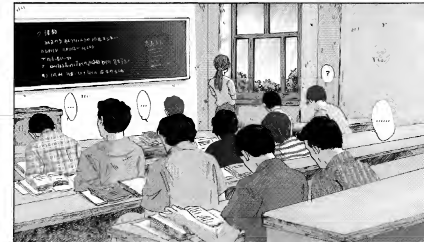

古代ローマ碑文
BOOK: ANCIENT ROMAN EPITAPHS
YOU OKAY, SATSUKI...?
GRANDPA ......
DO YOU THINK LUCIUS WAS JUST A GHOST OF ANCIENT ROME?
I GAVE HIM SOME ACUPUNCTURE ......
I'M HERE TO TAKE YOU HOME...

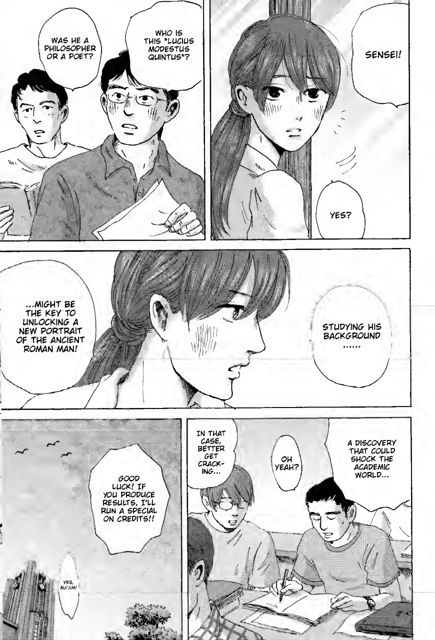

...AND HE DIDN'T SEEM LIKE ANYTHING BUT FLESH AND BLOOD.
THEN WHY DID HE DISAPPEAR!?
GABA (LURCH)
がばっ
HOW!?
PER- HAPS...
...SOMETHIN' CRAZY HAPPENED TO HIM.....
I CAN'T IMAGINE HE'D JUST UP AND LEAVE YOU BEHIND.
......
PORO (DRIP)
ポロ
PORO
ポロ
...
ボート 釣り竿 レンタル
かどや
磯料理
遊覧船・宿
釣舟
SIGN: BOAT AND ROD RENTALS
IT WAS SUCH A SHOCK WHEN LUCIUS JUST VANISHED...
POOR GIRL. SHE REALLY WAS IN LOVE WITH HIM...

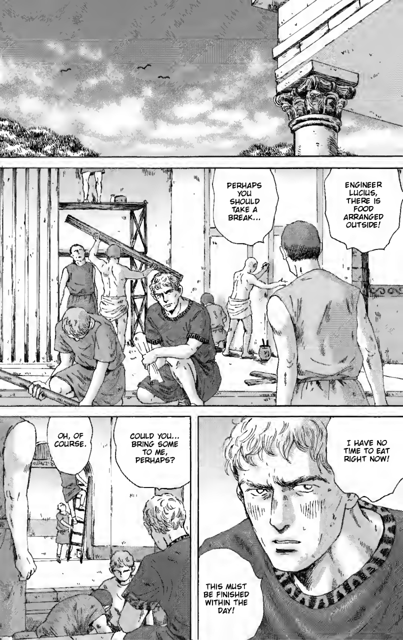
BLACKBOARD ASSIGNMENT: FIND THE FOLLOWING AMONG THE EPITAPH TEXT

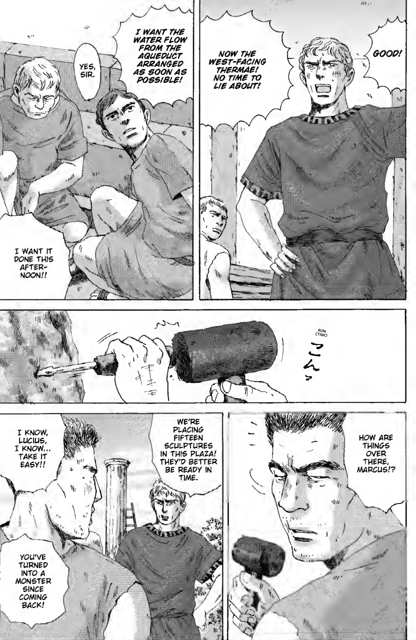

① 課題
碑文の文献より以下の項目を探し出す事
1) LVCIVS QVINTVS MODESTVS
2) 浴場技術関連
3) ハドリアヌス帝の時代の建造物に関する記録

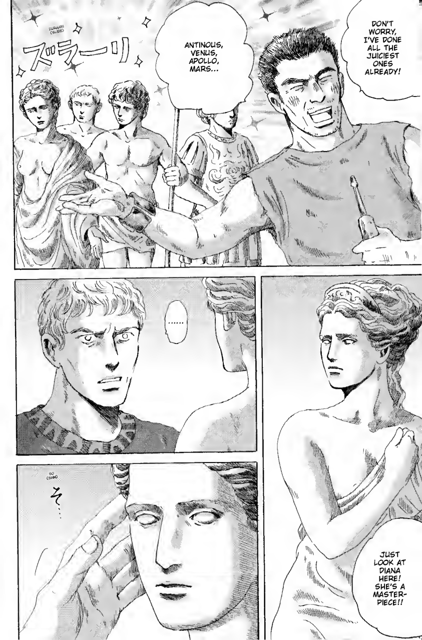
1) LVCIVS QVINTVS MODESTVS 2) REFERENCES TO BATHING ARCHITECTURE, 3) RECORDS OF BUILDINGS FROM HADRIAN'S TIME

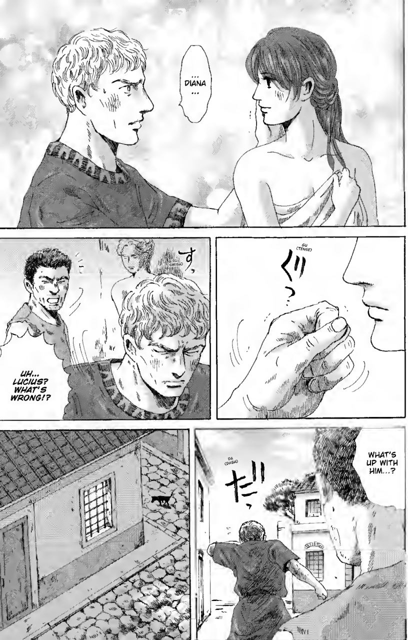


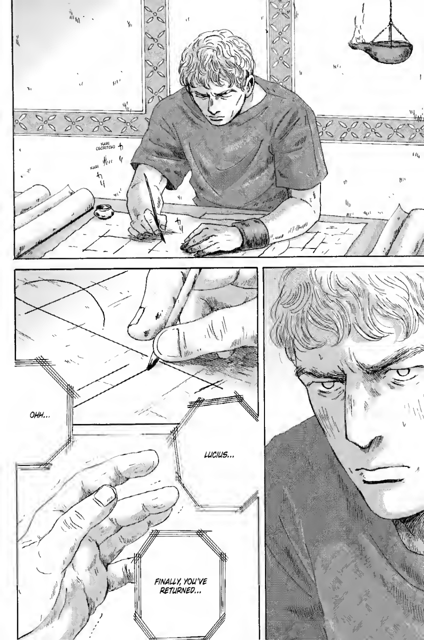

SENSEI!
YES?
WHO IS THIS "LUCIUS MODESTUS QUINTUS"?
WAS HE A PHILOSOPHER OR A POET?
STUDYING HIS BACKGROUND ......
...MIGHT BE THE KEY TO UNLOCKING A NEW PORTRAIT OF THE ANCIENT ROMAN MAN!
A DISCOVERY THAT COULD SHOCK THE ACADEMIC WORLD...
OH YEAH?
IN THAT CASE, BETTER GET CRACKING...
GOOD LUCK! IF YOU PRODUCE RESULTS, I'LL RUN A SPECIAL ON CREDITS!!
YES, MA'AM!

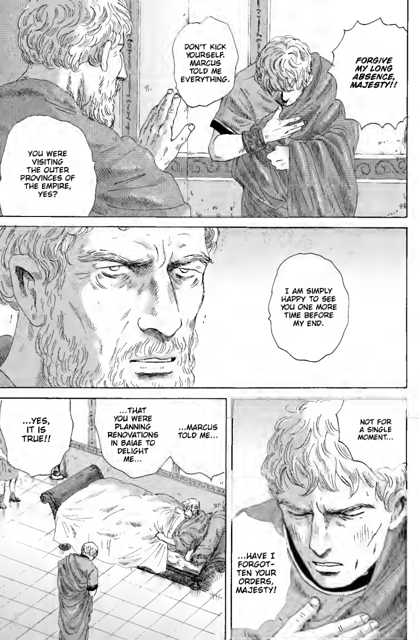

ENGINEER LUCIUS, THERE IS FOOD ARRANGED OUTSIDE!
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD TAKE A BREAK...
I HAVE NO TIME TO EAT RIGHT NOW!
THIS MUST BE FINISHED WITHIN THE DAY!
COULD YOU... BRING SOME TO ME, PERHAPS?
OH, OF COURSE.

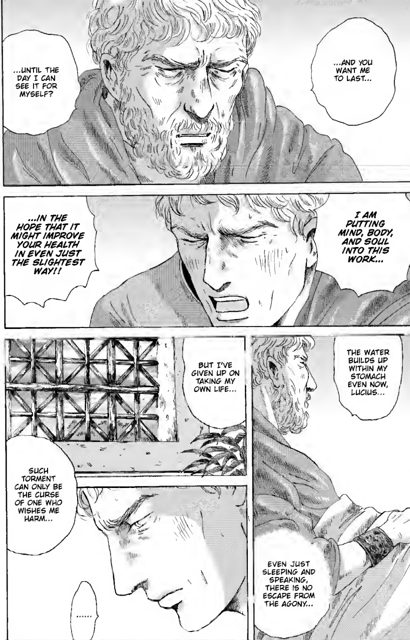

GOOD!
NOW THE WEST-FACING THERMAE! NO TIME TO LIE ABOUT!
I WANT THE WATER FLOW FROM THE AQUEDUCT ARRANGED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
YES, SIR.
I WANT IT DONE THIS AFTERNOON!!
KON (TINK)
こんっ
HOW ARE THINGS OVER THERE, MARCUS!?
WE'RE PLACING FIFTEEN SCULPTURES IN THIS PLAZA! THEY'D BETTER BE READY IN TIME.
I KNOW, LUCIUS, I KNOW... TAKE IT EASY!!
YOU'VE TURNED INTO A MONSTER SINCE COMING BACK!

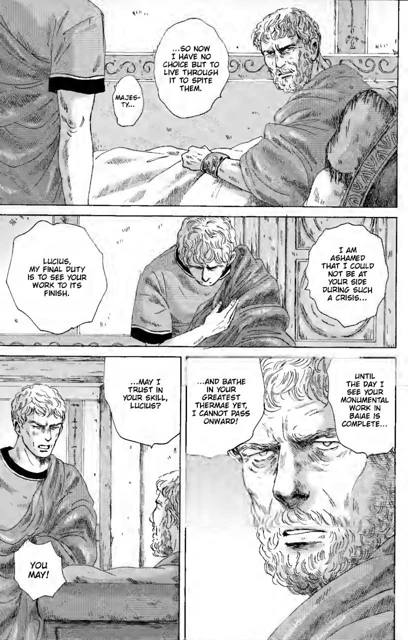

ZURAARI (SLIDE)
ズラーリ
DON'T WORRY, I'VE DONE ALL THE JUICIEST ONES ALREADY!
ANTINOUS, VENUS, APOLLO, MARS...
......
JUST LOOK AT DIANA HERE! SHE'S A MASTERPIECE!!
SO (SUHO)
そ...

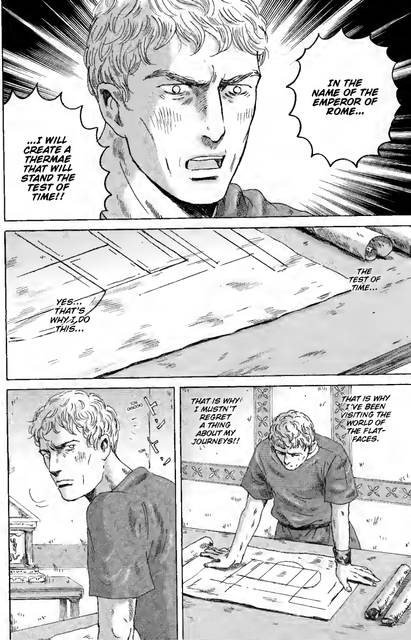

... DIANA ...
ぐっ
GU (TENSE)
す、
SU (SWISH)
UH... LUCIUS? WHAT'S WRONG!?
WHAT'S UP WITH HIM...?
だッ
DA (DASH)

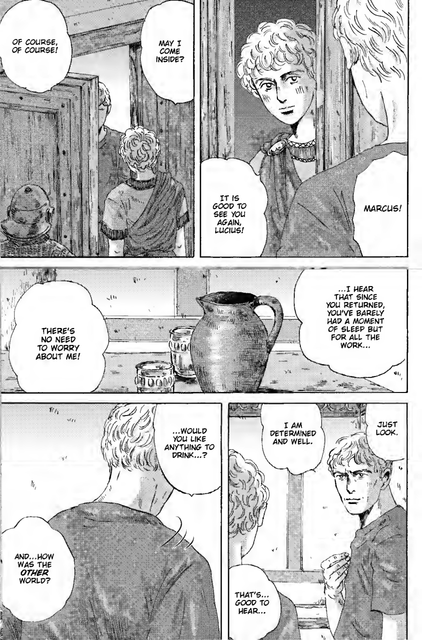

KARI (SCRITCH) カリ
KARI カリ
OHH...
LUCIUS...
FINALLY, YOU'VE RETURNED...

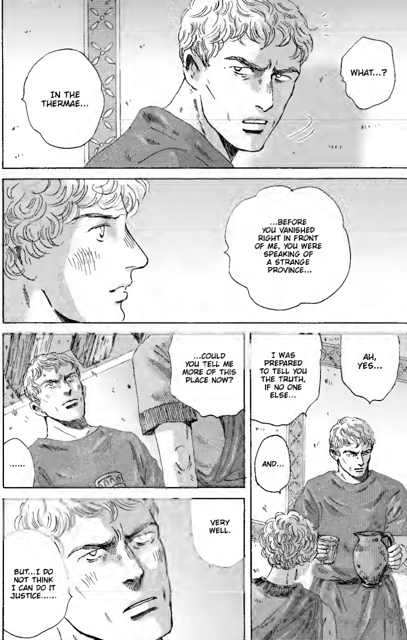

FORGIVE MY LONG ABSENCE, MAJESTY!!
DON'T KICK YOURSELF. MARCUS TOLD ME EVERYTHING.
YOU WERE VISITING THE OUTER PROVINCES OF THE EMPIRE, YES?
I AM SIMPLY HAPPY TO SEE YOU ONE MORE TIME BEFORE MY END.
NOT FOR A SINGLE MOMENT...
...HAVE I FORGOTTEN YOUR ORDERS, MAJESTY!
...MARCUS TOLD ME...
...THAT YOU WERE PLANNING RENOVATIONS IN BAIAE TO DELIGHT ME...
...YES, IT IS TRUE!!

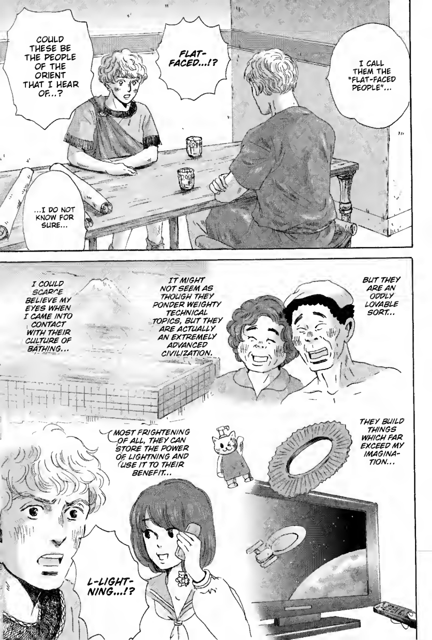

...AND YOU WANT ME TO LAST...
...UNTIL THE DAY I CAN SEE IT FOR MYSELF?
I AM PUTTING MIND, BODY, AND SOUL INTO THIS WORK...
...IN THE HOPE THAT IT MIGHT IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH IN EVEN JUST THE SLIGHTEST WAY!!
THE WATER BUILDS UP WITHIN MY STOMACH EVEN NOW, LUCIUS...
EVEN JUST SLEEPING AND SPEAKING, THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM THE AGONY...
BUT I'VE GIVEN UP ON TAKING MY OWN LIFE...
SUCH TORMENT CAN ONLY BE THE CURSE OF ONE WHO WISHES ME HARM...
......

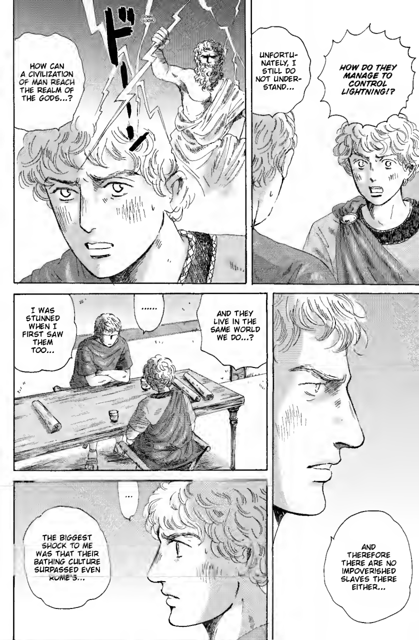

...SO NOW I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LIVE THROUGH IT TO SPITE THEM.
MAJESTY...
I AM ASHAMED THAT I COULD NOT BE AT YOUR SIDE DURING SUCH A CRISIS...
LUCIUS, MY FINAL DUTY IS TO SEE YOUR WORK TO ITS FINISH.
UNTIL THE DAY I SEE YOUR MONUMENTAL WORK IN BAIAE IS COMPLETE...
...AND BATHE IN YOUR GREATEST THERMAE YET, I CANNOT PASS ONWARD!
...MAY I TRUST IN YOUR SKILL, LUCIUS?
YOU MAY!

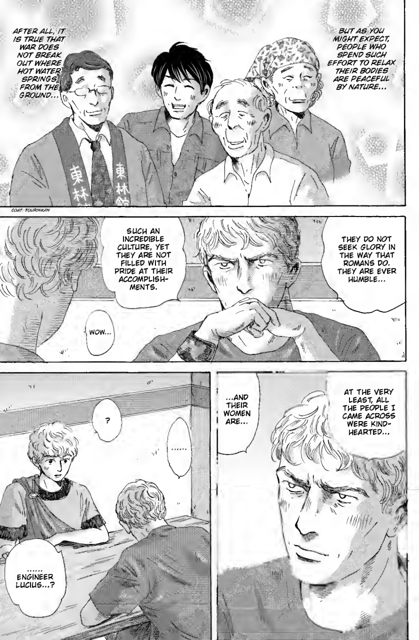

IN THE NAME OF THE EMPEROR OF ROME...
...I WILL CREATE A THERMAE THAT WILL STAND THE TEST OF TIME!!
THE TEST OF TIME...
YES... THAT'S WHY I DO THIS...
THAT IS WHY I'VE BEEN VISITING THE WORLD OF THE FLAT-FACES.
THAT IS WHY I MUSTN'T REGRET A THING ABOUT MY JOURNEYS!!
TON (KNOCK)
TON

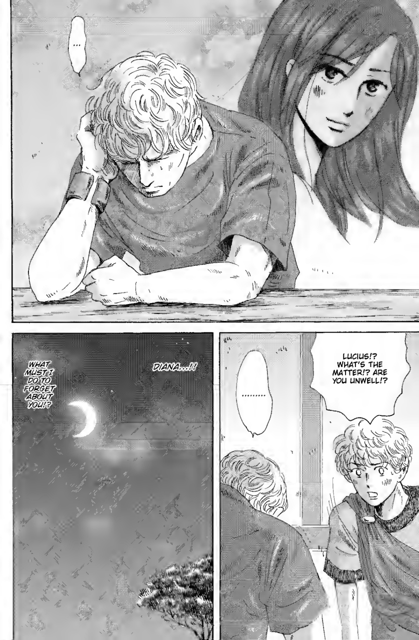

MARCUS!
IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, LUCIUS!
MAY I COME INSIDE?
OF COURSE, OF COURSE!
...I HEAR THAT SINCE YOU RETURNED, YOU'VE BARELY HAD A MOMENT OF SLEEP BUT FOR ALL THE WORK...
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME!
JUST LOOK.
I AM DETERMINED AND WELL.
THAT'S... GOOD TO HEAR...
...WOULD YOU LIKE ANYTHING TO DRINK...?
AND...HOW WAS THE *OTHER* WORLD?


IN THE THERMAE...
WHAT...?
...BEFORE YOU VANISHED RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME, YOU WERE SPEAKING OF A STRANGE PROVINCE...
...COULD YOU TELL ME MORE OF THIS PLACE NOW?
......
AH, YES...
I WAS PREPARED TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, IF NO ONE ELSE...
AND...
VERY WELL.
BUT...I DO NOT THINK I CAN DO IT JUSTICE.....

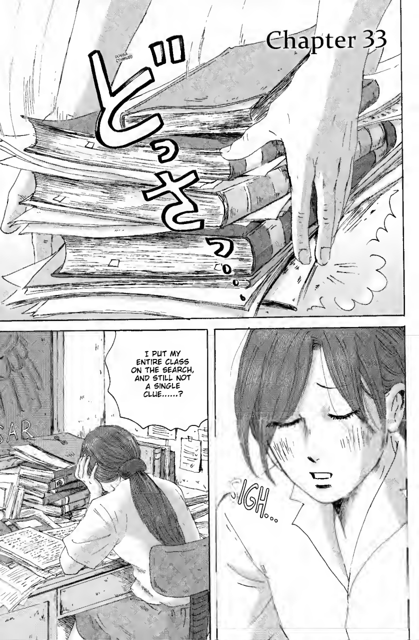

I CALL THEM THE "FLAT-FACED PEOPLE"...
FLAT-FACED...!?
COULD THESE BE THE PEOPLE OF THE ORIENT THAT I HEAR OF...?
...I DO NOT KNOW FOR SURE...
BUT THEY ARE AN ODDLY LOVABLE SORT...
IT MIGHT NOT SEEM AS THOUGH THEY PONDER WEIGHTY TECHNICAL TOPICS, BUT THEY ARE ACTUALLY AN EXTREMELY ADVANCED CIVILIZATION.
I COULD SCARCE BELIEVE MY EYES WHEN I CAME INTO CONTACT WITH THEIR CULTURE OF BATHING...
THEY BUILD THINGS WHICH FAR EXCEED MY IMAGINATION...
MOST FRIGHTENING OF ALL, THEY CAN STORE THE POWER OF LIGHTNING AND USE IT TO THEIR BENEFIT...
L-LIGHTNING...!?

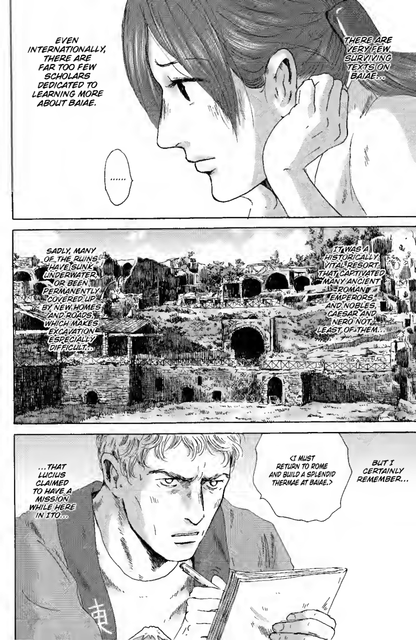

HOW DO THEY MANAGE TO CONTROL LIGHTNING!?
UNFORTUNATELY, I STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND...
DOON (BOOM)
HOW CAN A CIVILIZATION OF MAN REACH THE REALM OF THE GODS...?
AND THEREFORE THERE ARE NO IMPOVERISHED SLAVES THERE EITHER...
AND THEY LIVE IN THE SAME WORLD WE DO...?
......
I WAS STUNNED WHEN I FIRST SAW THEM TOO...
...
THE BIGGEST SHOCK TO ME WAS THAT THEIR BATHING CULTURE SURPASSED EVEN ROME'S...

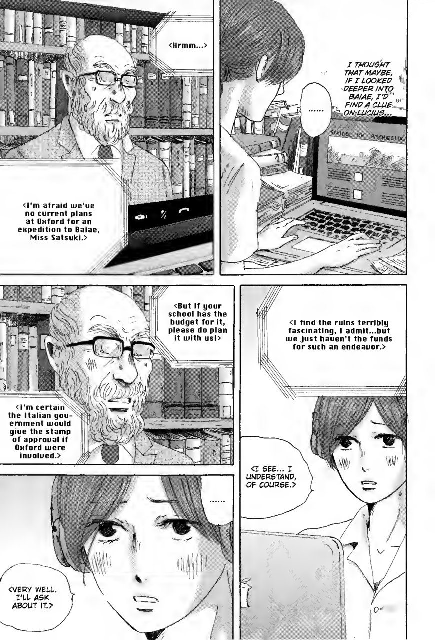

AFTER ALL, IT IS TRUE THAT WAR DOES NOT BREAK OUT WHERE HOT WATER SPRINGS FROM THE GROUND...
BUT AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT, PEOPLE WHO SPEND SUCH EFFORT TO RELAX THEIR BODIES ARE PEACEFUL BY NATURE...
東林館
COAT: TOURINKAN
SUCH AN INCREDIBLE CULTURE, YET THEY ARE NOT FILLED WITH PRIDE AT THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS.
THEY DO NOT SEEK GLORY IN THE WAY THAT ROMANS DO. THEY ARE EVER HUMBLE...
WOW...
?
......
......ENGINEER LUCIUS...?
...AND THEIR WOMEN ARE...
AT THE VERY LEAST, ALL THE PEOPLE I CAME ACROSS WERE KIND-HEARTED...

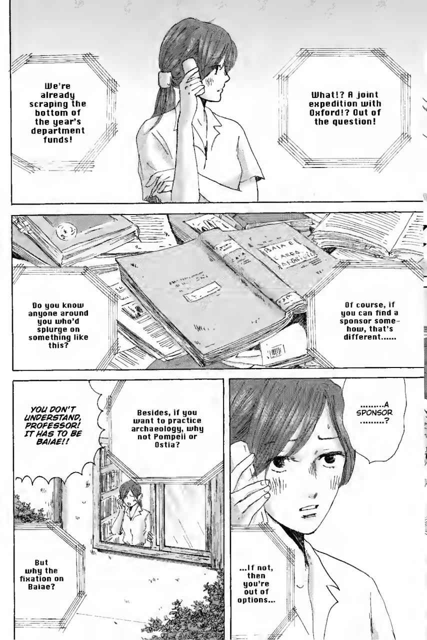

…
DIANA...!!
WHAT MUST I DO TO FORGET ABOUT YOU!?
LUCIUS!? WHAT'S THE MATTER!? ARE YOU UNWELL!?
....

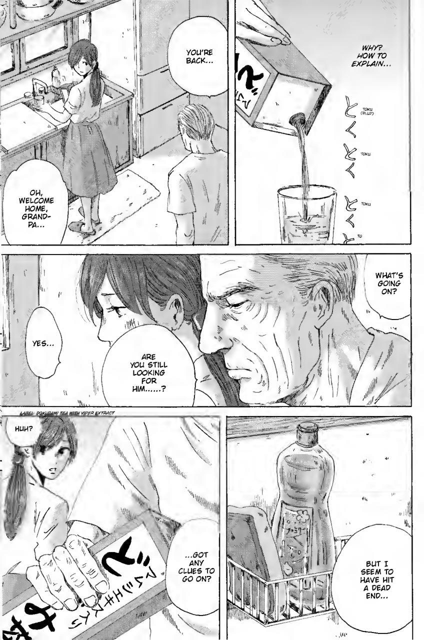
Chapter 33

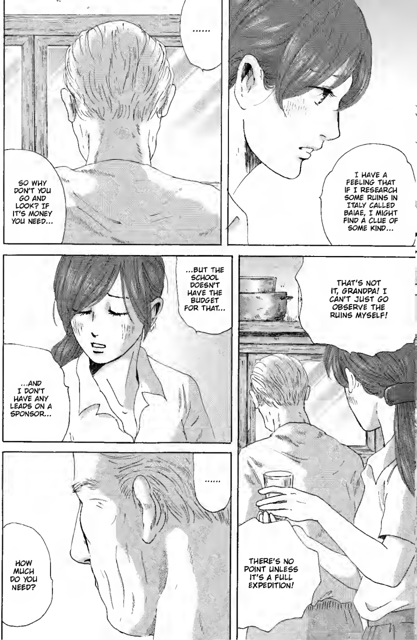

どっさっ
DOSSA (THWUD)
I PUT MY ENTIRE CLASS ON THE SEARCH, AND STILL NOT A SINGLE CLUE......?
SIGH...
SAR

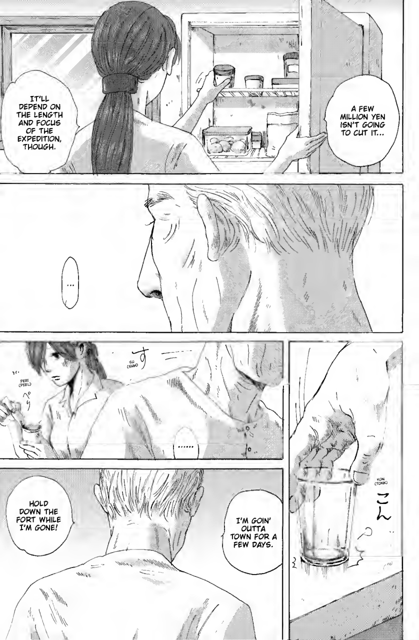

THERE ARE VERY FEW SURVIVING TEXTS ON BAIAE...
EVEN INTERNATIONALLY, THERE ARE FAR TOO FEW SCHOLARS DEDICATED TO LEARNING MORE ABOUT BAIAE.
......
IT WAS A HISTORICALLY VITAL RESORT THAT CAPTIVATED MANY ANCIENT ROMAN EMPERORS AND NOBLES, CAESAR AND NERO NOT LEAST OF THEM...
SADLY, MANY OF THE RUINS HAVE SUNK UNDERWATER OR BEEN PERMANENTLY COVERED UP BY NEW HOMES AND ROADS, WHICH MAKES EXCAVATION ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT...
BUT I CERTAINLY REMEMBER...
<I MUST RETURN TO ROME AND BUILD A SPLENDID THERMAE AT BAIAE.>
...THAT LUCIUS CLAIMED TO HAVE A MISSION WHILE HERE IN ITO...

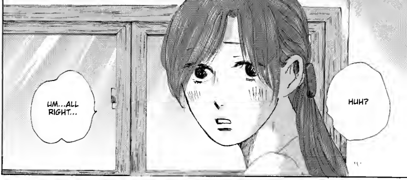

I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE, IF I LOOKED DEEPER INTO BAIAE, I'D FIND A CLUE ON LUCIUS...
......
SCHOOL OF ARCHEOLO
<Hrmm...>
<I'm afraid we've no current plans at Oxford for an expedition to Baiae, Miss Satsuki.>
<I find the ruins terribly fascinating, I admit...but we just haven't the funds for such an endeavor.>
<I SEE... I UNDERSTAND, OF COURSE.>
<But if your school has the budget for it, please do plan it with us!>
<I'm certain the Italian government would give the stamp of approval if Oxford were involved.>
......
<VERY WELL. I'LL ASK ABOUT IT.>

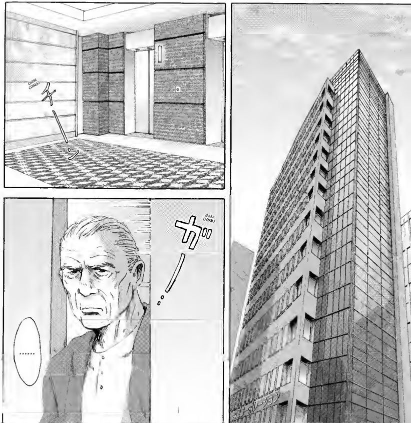

What!? A joint expedition with Oxford!? Out of the question!
We're already scraping the bottom of the year's department funds!
BAIAE
Of course, if you can find a sponsor somehow, that's different......
Do you know anyone around you who'd splurge on something like this?
.........A SPONSOR ....?
...If not, then you're out of options...
Besides, if you want to practice archaeology, why not Pompeii or Ostia?
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, PROFESSOR! IT HAS TO BE BAIAE!!
But why the fixation on Baiae?

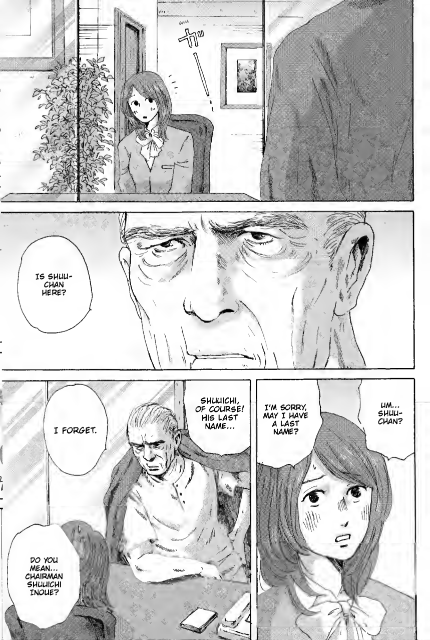

WHY? HOW TO EXPLAIN...
とく TOKU (BLUP)
とく TOKU
とく TOKU
と TO
YOU'RE BACK...
OH, WELCOME HOME, GRANDPA...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
ARE YOU STILL LOOKING FOR HIM......?
YES...
BUT I SEEM TO HAVE HIT A DEAD END...
...GOT ANY CLUES TO GO ON?
HUH?
LABEL: DOKUDAMI TEA WITH VIPER EXTRACT

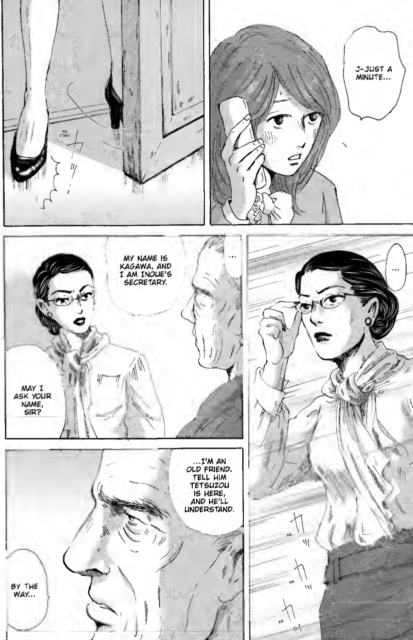

I HAVE A FEELING THAT IF I RESEARCH SOME RUINS IN ITALY CALLED BAIAE, I MIGHT FIND A CLUE OF SOME KIND...
......
SO WHY DON'T YOU GO AND LOOK? IF IT'S MONEY YOU NEED...
THAT'S NOT IT, GRANDPA! I CAN'T JUST GO OBSERVE THE RUINS MYSELF!
...BUT THE SCHOOL DOESN'T HAVE THE BUDGET FOR THAT...
...AND I DON'T HAVE ANY LEADS ON A SPONSOR...
THERE'S NO POINT UNLESS IT'S A FULL EXPEDITION!
......
HOW MUCH DO YOU NEED?

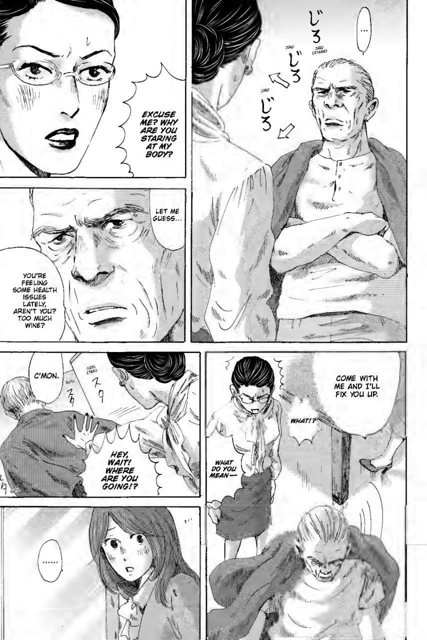

A FEW MILLION YEN ISN'T GOING TO CUT IT...
IT'LL DEPEND ON THE LENGTH AND FOCUS OF THE EXPEDITION, THOUGH.
...
す
SU (SHUF)
ぺり
PERI (PEEL)
......
こん
KON (TONK)
I'M GOIN' OUTTA TOWN FOR A FEW DAYS.
HOLD DOWN THE FORT WHILE I'M GONE!

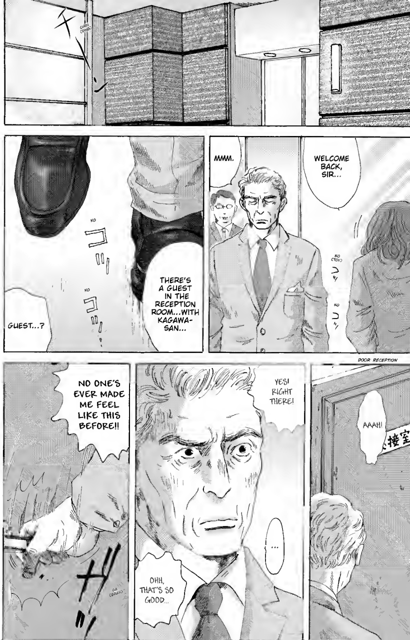

HUH?
UM...ALL RIGHT...

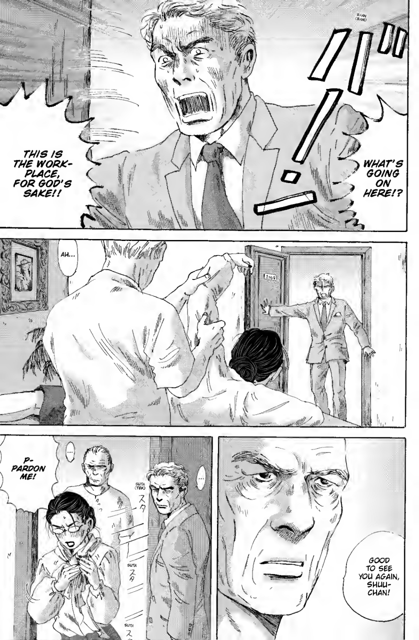

CHIIN (DING)
チーン
GAAA (VMMM)
ガー
......

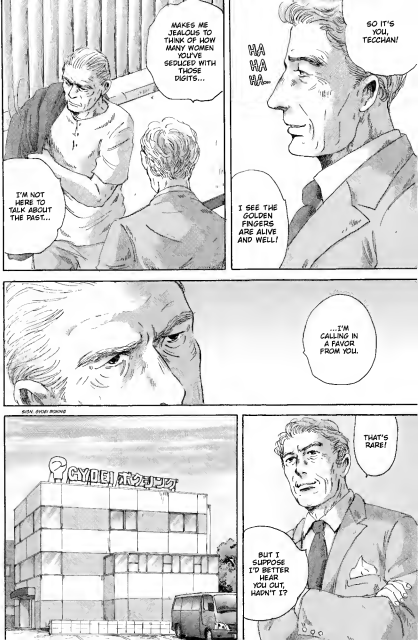

GAAA
ガ
IS SHUU-CHAN HERE?
UM... SHUU-CHAN?
I'M SORRY, MAY I HAVE A LAST NAME?
SHUUICHI, OF COURSE! HIS LAST NAME...
I FORGET.
DO YOU MEAN... CHAIRMAN SHUUICHI INOUE?


J-JUST A MINUTE...
KA (TAK)
...
KA...
KA
KA
MY NAME IS KAGAWA, AND I AM INOUE'S SECRETARY.
...
MAY I ASK YOUR NAME, SIR?
...I'M AN OLD FRIEND. TELL HIM TETSUZOU IS HERE, AND HE'LL UNDERSTAND.
BY THE WAY...

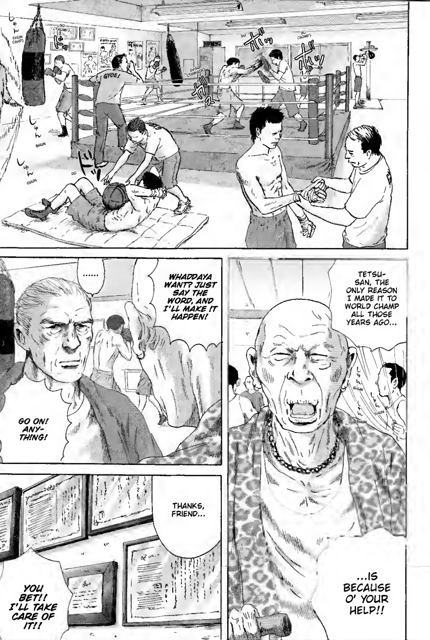

...
じろ
JIRO (STARE)
じろ
JIRO
じろ
EXCUSE ME? WHY ARE YOU STARING AT MY BODY?
LET ME GUESS...
YOU'RE FEELING SOME HEALTH ISSUES LATELY, AREN'T YOU? TOO MUCH WINE?
COME WITH ME AND I'LL FIX YOU UP.
WHAT!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN—
C'MON.
スタ
SUTA (TEK)
スタ
SUTA
HEY, WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?
......

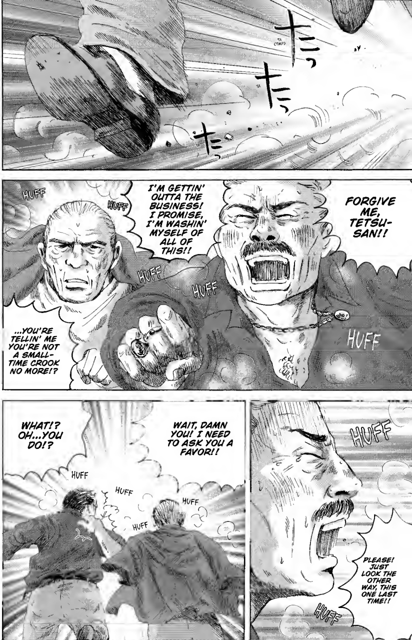

CHIN (DING)
WELCOME BACK, SIR...
MMM.
KO (TOK)
KO
KO
KO
THERE'S A GUEST IN THE RECEPTION ROOM...WITH KAGAWA-SAN...
GUEST...?
DOOR RECEPTION
AAAH!
接室
YES! RIGHT THERE!
...
OHH, THAT'S SO GOOD...
NO ONE'S EVER MADE ME FEEL LIKE THIS BEFORE!!
GA (GRAB)

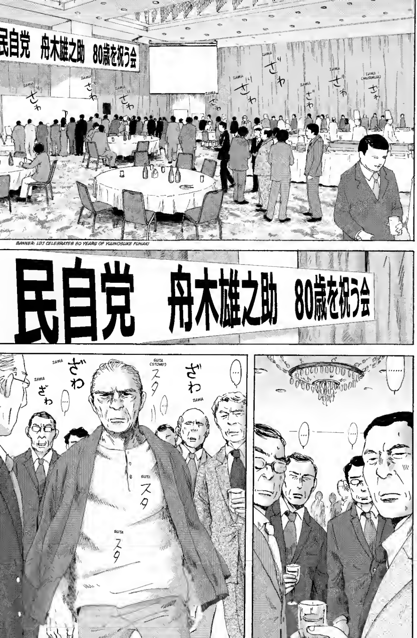

BAAN (BAM)
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!?
THIS IS THE WORK-PLACE, FOR GOD'S SAKE!!
AH...
GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, SHUU-CHAN!
...
...
P-PARDON ME!
SUTA (TEK) スタ
SUTA スタ
SUTA ス

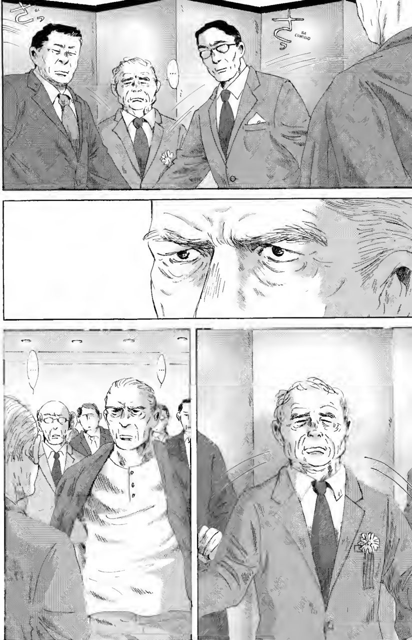

SO IT'S YOU, TECCHAN!
HA HA HA...
I SEE THE GOLDEN FINGERS ARE ALIVE AND WELL!
MAKES ME JEALOUS TO THINK OF HOW MANY WOMEN YOU'VE SEDUCED WITH THOSE DIGITS...
I'M NOT HERE TO TALK ABOUT THE PAST...
...I'M CALLING IN A FAVOR FROM YOU.
THAT'S RARE!
BUT I SUPPOSE I'D BETTER HEAR YOU OUT, HADN'T I?
GYOEI ボクシング

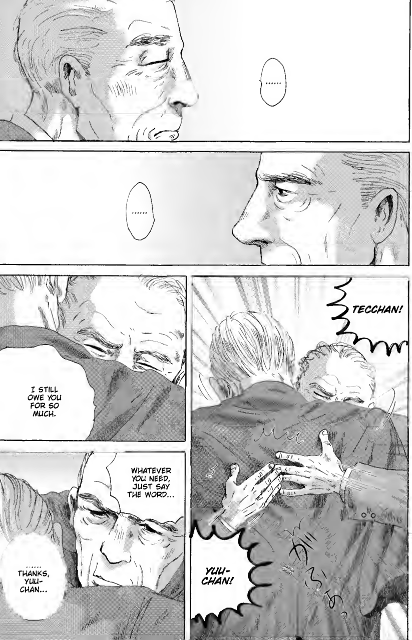
SIGN: GYOEI BOXING

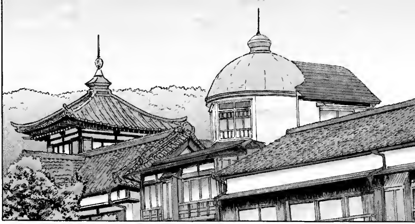

ボッ
BO (BOMP)
ボッ
BO
ガス
GASU (THWACK)
GYOEI
ドッ
DO (THUMP)
ドッ
DO
しゅん
SHUN (SHP)
しゅん
SHUN
しゅん
SHUN
TETSU-SAN, THE ONLY REASON I MADE IT TO WORLD CHAMP ALL THOSE YEARS AGO...
しゅん
SHUN
しゅん
SHUN
...IS BECAUSE O' YOUR HELP!!
......
WHADDAYA WANT? JUST SAY THE WORD, AND I'LL MAKE IT HAPPEN!
GO ON! ANY-THING!
THANKS, FRIEND...
YOU BET!! I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT!!


たっ
TA (TMP)
たっ
TA
たっ
FORGIVE ME, TETSU-SAN!!
I'M GETTIN' OUTTA THE BUSINESS! I PROMISE, I'M WASHIN' MYSELF OF ALL OF THIS!!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
...YOU'RE TELLIN' ME YOU'RE NOT A SMALL-TIME CROOK NO MORE!?
HUFF
WAIT, DAMN YOU! I NEED TO ASK YOU A FAVOR!!
WHAT!? OH...YOU DO!?
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
PLEASE! JUST LOOK THE OTHER WAY, THIS ONE LAST TIME!!
HUFF

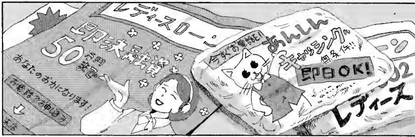

ZAWA (MURMUR)
ざわ
ZAWA
ざわ
ZAWA
ざわ
ZAWA
ざわ
ZAWA
ざわ
ZAWA
ざわ
ZAWA
ざわ
ZAWA
ざわ
ZAWA
ざわ
民自党　舟木雄之助　80歳を祝う会
BANNER: LDJ CELEBRATES 80 YEARS OF YUUNOSUKE FUNAKI
民自党　舟木雄之助　80歳を祝う会
……
…
…
ZAWA
ざわ
SUTA (STOMP)
スタ
…
ZAWA
ざわ
ZAWA
ざわ
…
SUTA
スタ
SUTA
スタ


さっ
SA (SWISH)
…
さっ
SA
…
…

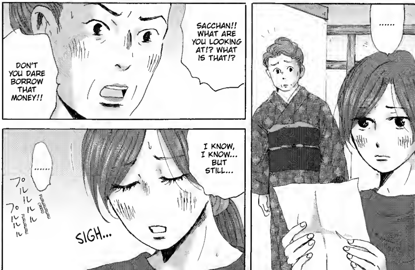

……
……
TECCHAN!
YUU-CHAN!
GAFUA (HUG)
I STILL OWE YOU FOR SO MUCH.
WHATEVER YOU NEED, JUST SAY THE WORD…
…… THANKS, YUU-CHAN…

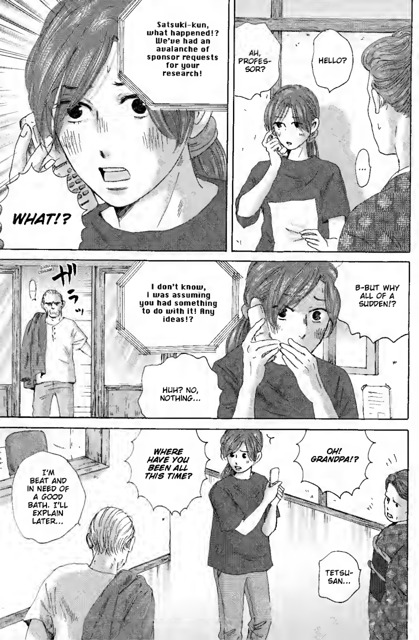


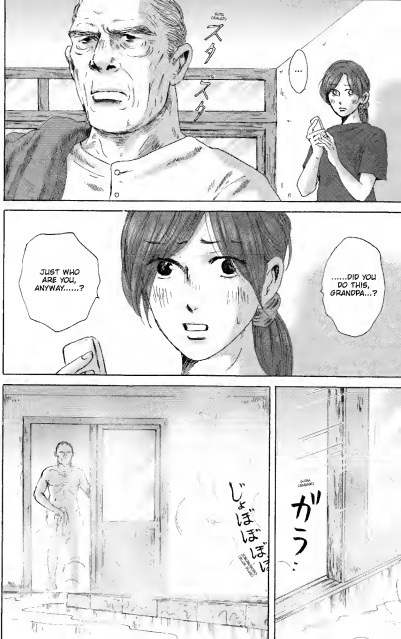
PACKAGE: CALL US NOW! RELIABLE CASHING. NO CONDITIONS!! SAME DAY? OKAY!

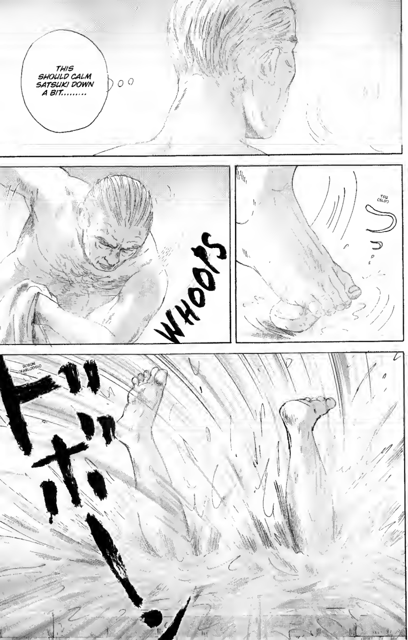

レディースローン
即決融資
50万円まで
あなたのお力になります!
今すぐお電話を!
あんしんキャッシング
無条件!!
即日OK!
レディース

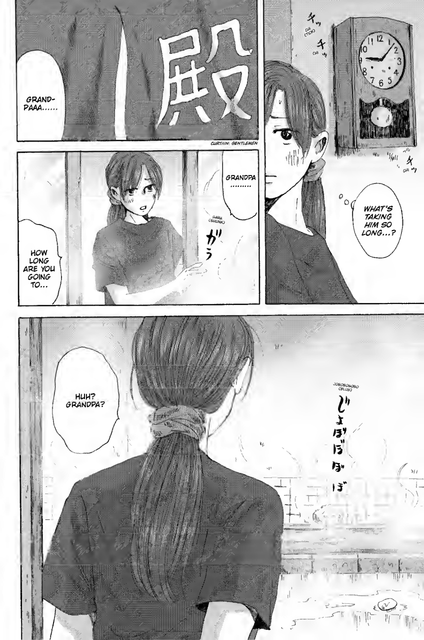
POSTER: LADIES' LOANS. INSTANT FUNDING UP TO 500K YEN. WE CAN HELP YOU! CALL OUR NUMBER NOW, VISIT STORE


......
SACCHAN!! WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT!? WHAT IS THAT!?
DON'T YOU DARE BORROW THAT MONEY!!
I KNOW, I KNOW... BUT STILL...
......
プルルルル
PURURURURU (RRRR)
プルルル
PURURURU
SIGH...


HELLO?
AH, PROFES-SOR?
...
Satsuki-kun, what happened!? We've had an avalanche of sponsor requests for your research!
WHAT!?
B-BUT WHY ALL OF A SUDDEN!?
I don't know, I was assuming you had something to do with it! Any ideas!?
HUH? NO, NOTHING...
ガラッ
GARA (SHUNK)
...
OH! GRANDPA!?
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL THIS TIME?
TETSU-SAN...
I'M BEAT AND IN NEED OF A GOOD BATH. I'LL EXPLAIN LATER...


…
SUTA (SHLEP)
スタ
SUTA
スタ
……DID YOU DO THIS, GRANDPA…?
JUST WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY……?
GARA (SHUNK)
ガラ
JOBOBOBOBO (BLUB BLUB)
じょぼぼぼぼ


THIS SHOULD CALM SATSUKI DOWN A BIT.........
TSU (SLIP)
WHOOPS
DOBON (KABLOOSH)
ドボ!


チッ
CHI (TICK)
チ
CHI
チ
CHI
WHAT'S TAKING HIM SO LONG...?
殿
GRAND-PAAA......
CURTAIN: GENTLEMEN
GRANDPA ....
ガラ
GARA (SHUNK)
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO...
HUH? GRANDPA?
じょぼぼぼぼ
JOBOBOBOBO (BLUB)

ROME & BATHS, THE LOVES OF MY LIFE

I've been asked by those knowledgeable of ancient civilizations such as the Romans if I'd ever harbored a desire to go into archaeology instead of manga. It's true that no matter what country I visit, I will automatically stop by any museums of ancient history found there. Whether Phoenician, Hittite, or Mycenaean, I'll take any chance I get to interact directly with the ruins of dead civilizations.

The oldest ruins of any I've visited were likely in Syria (such a shame that a land so bountiful in historical value should be wracked by such awful fighting), the ancient city Mari on the border with Iraq. Mari, which shares my given name, is held to be the westernmost city of the ancient Sumerian civilization, famous in our history textbooks for their distinctive cuneiform written language. At present, over twenty-five thousand Sumerian tablets have been excavated from the ruins of Mari.

Most of these Middle Eastern (Syrian) ruins and places of archaeological interest are simply sitting out in the open in isolated places with no full-time security or surrounding infrastructure of any sort. No matter where you enter these ruins, if you wander around long enough, a dusty, local-looking fellow will pop up out of nowhere, produce an account book and demand an entry fee. Who knows how long ago that book was printed, as its pages are sun-faded so badly that you can barely read what's in it, but it's clearly been printed by some kind of government agency, and the fee isn't that much, so what's the harm? After he gives you a ticket, he disappears again, leaving you free to do whatever you want.

Ruins of Mari, Syria

At times, a farmer-looking guy will pop up, sidle next to you, then show you two handfuls of "rare-looking stuff" like some kind of drug dealer, trying to sell them to you because, hey, this is what you're after, right? Of course, this is illegal in a variety of senses, so regardless of whether or not they appear to contain ancient cuneiform or Roman cameos, we must ignore them.

There are several things to keep in mind at any archaeological excavation: why the field of archaeology exists, how soul-crushing it can be to raise funds for a trip, and just how useful the items uncovered will be to that particular field.

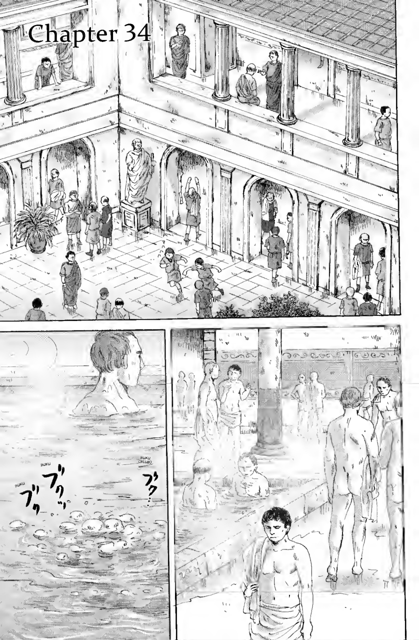
When my father-in-law traveled from Italy to visit our home in Syria, he planned himself a hike to some ruins. Several hours later, he showed up to meet us at the nearest restaurant with his arms full of what appeared to be human bones. He was convinced that he'd uncovered an ancient skeleton in the find of the century, raving enthusiastically, until the restaurant manager came out to see. Upon spotting the bones in my father-in-law's hands, he said, "Oh, those are the bones from the sheep we cooked. I just tossed those out not long ago."

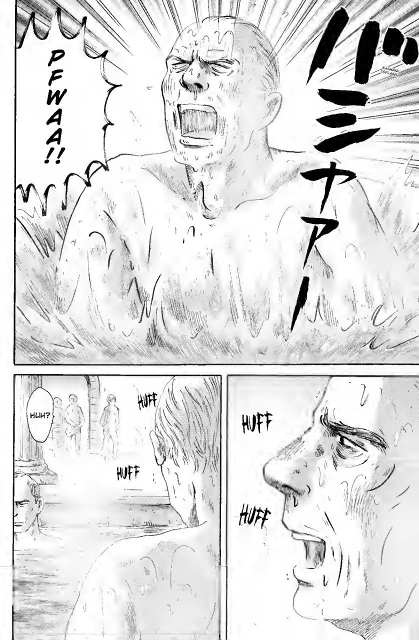
The bones slipped out of his hands and clattered on the floor with the sound of a dream shattering. It was a very instructive moment in which we learned that as amateurs, it is much, much more difficult to be an archaeologist than you might think.

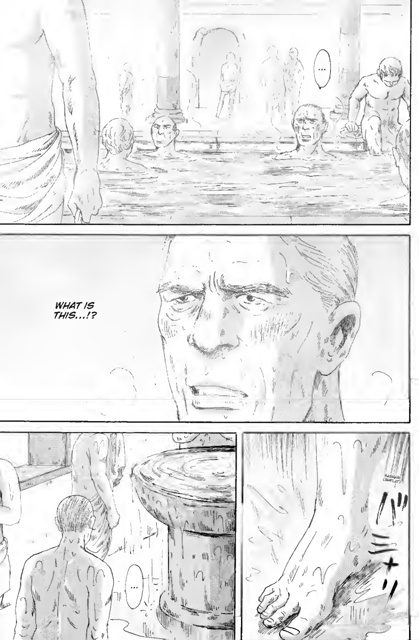
The Euphrates: eastern border of the Ancient Roman Empire

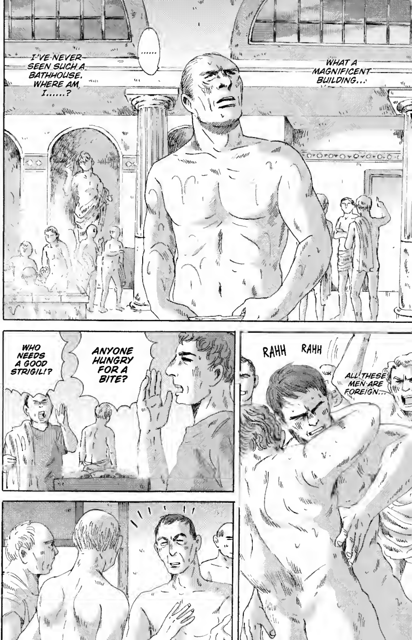
A piece of ancient something-or-other that popped out.

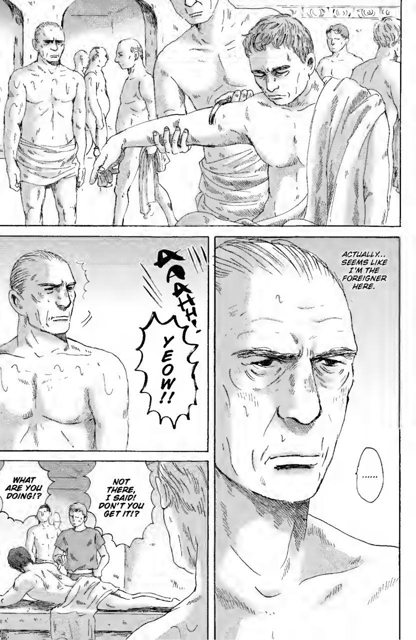
Chapter 34

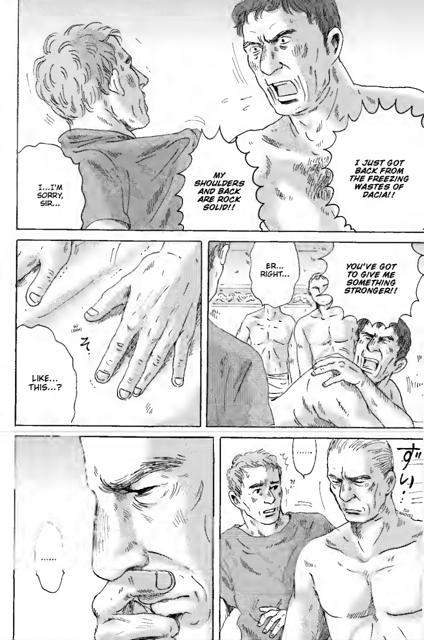

BUKU (GLUB)
ブク…
BUKU
ブクッ
BUKU
ブク

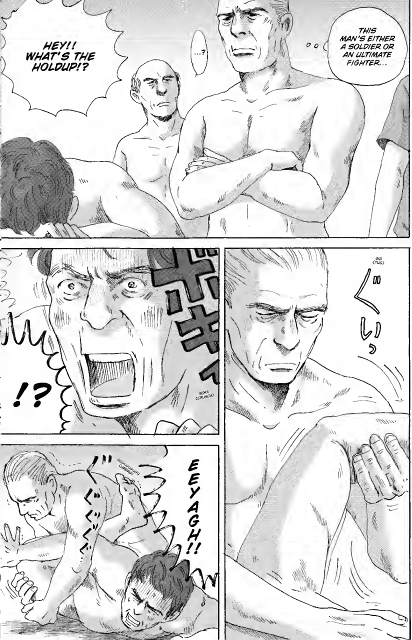

バシャアー
BASHAAA (SPLASH)
PFWAA!!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUH?

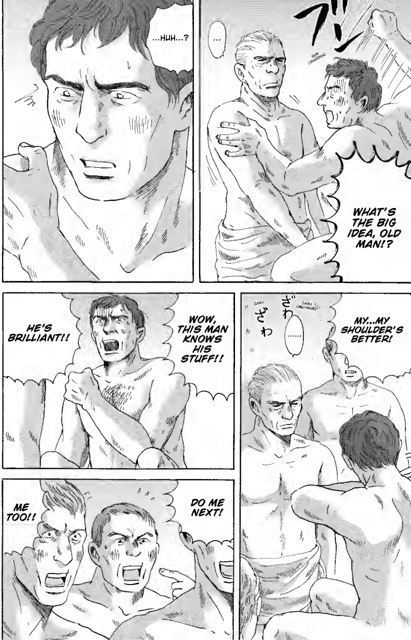

...
WHAT IS THIS...!?
...
BASHA! (SHPLAT)


WHAT A MAGNIFICENT BUILDING...
......
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A BATHHOUSE. WHERE AM I......?
RAHH RAHH
ALL THESE MEN ARE FOREIGN...
ANYONE HUNGRY FOR A BITE?
WHO NEEDS A GOOD STRIGIL!?

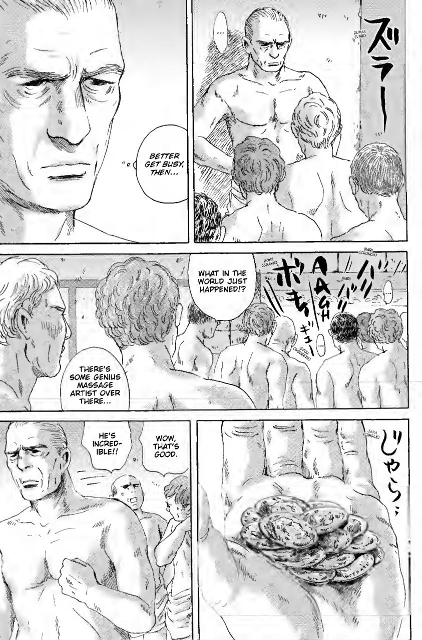

AAAHH!
YEOW!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
NOT THERE, I SAID! DON'T YOU GET IT!?
ACTUALLY... SEEMS LIKE I'M THE FOREIGNER HERE.
......

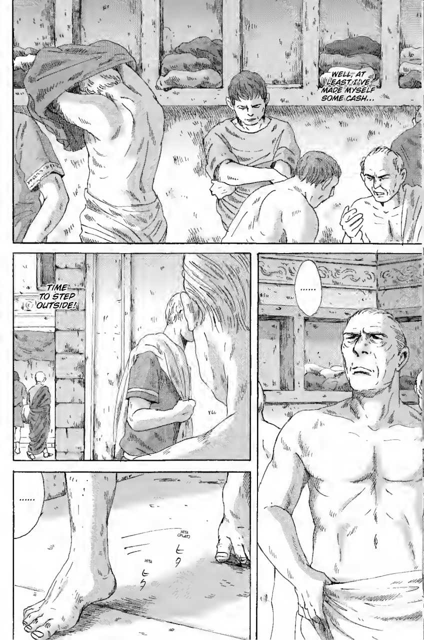

I JUST GOT BACK FROM THE FREEZING WASTES OF DACIA!!
MY SHOULDERS AND BACK ARE ROCK SOLID!!
I...I'M SORRY, SIR...
YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE ME SOMETHING STRONGER!!
ER... RIGHT...
ス
SO (SHH)
LIKE... THIS...?
ずい
ZUI (SHOVE)
......
?!
......

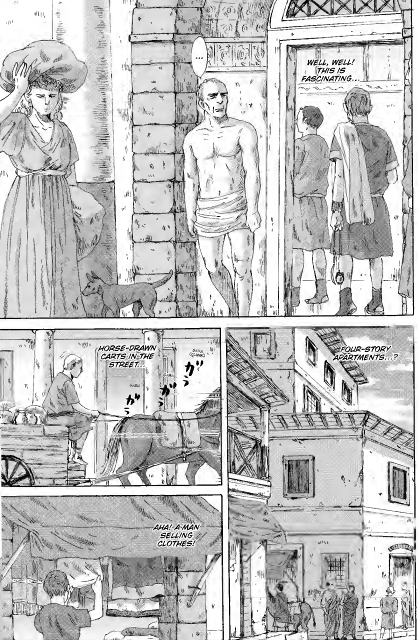

THIS MAN'S EITHER A SOLDIER OR AN ULTIMATE FIGHTER...
...?
HEY!! WHAT'S THE HOLDUP!?
ぐいっ
GUI (TUG)
ボキ
BOKI! (CRUNCH)
!?
EEYAGH!!
ぐぐぐぐぐ…
GUGUGUGUGU (HRRRG)

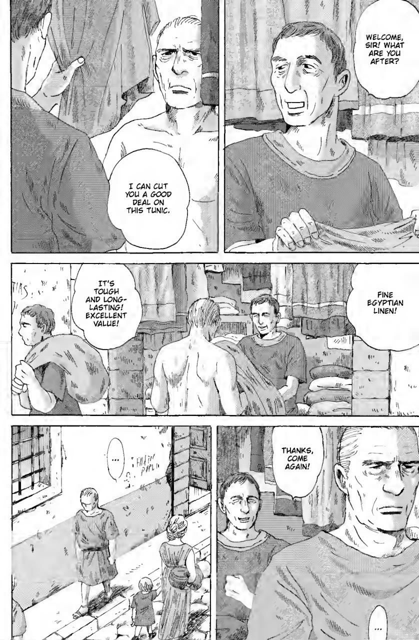


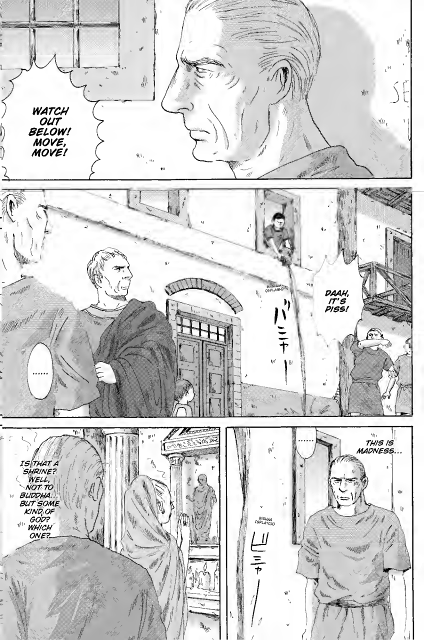
ブン
BUN (WHOOSH)
...
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, OLD MAN!?
...HUH...?
ざわ ざわ
ZAWA ZAWA (MURMUR)
MY...MY SHOULDER'S BETTER!
......
WOW, THIS MAN KNOWS HIS STUFF!!
HE'S BRILLIANT!!
DO ME NEXT!
ME TOO!!

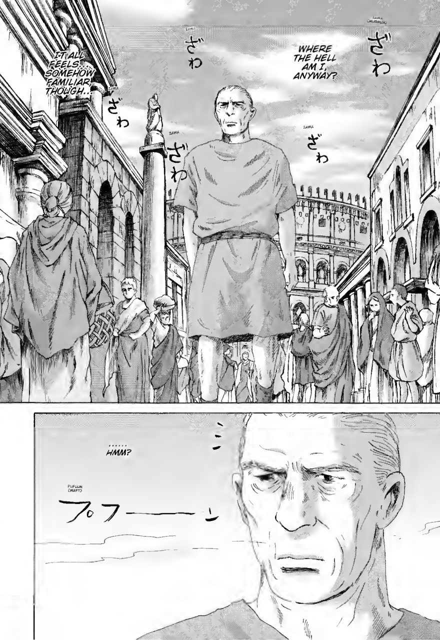

...
ズラー
ZURAA (LINE)
BETTER GET BUSY, THEN...
BARI (CRUNCH)
バリバリ
BARI
...
AAGH
ボキッ
BOKI (CREAK)
ギュー
GYUU (SQUEEZE)
...
WHAT IN THE WORLD JUST HAPPENED!?
THERE'S SOME GENIUS MASSAGE ARTIST OVER THERE...
じゃら
JARA (JINGLE)
WOW, THAT'S GOOD.
HE'S INCREDIBLE!!

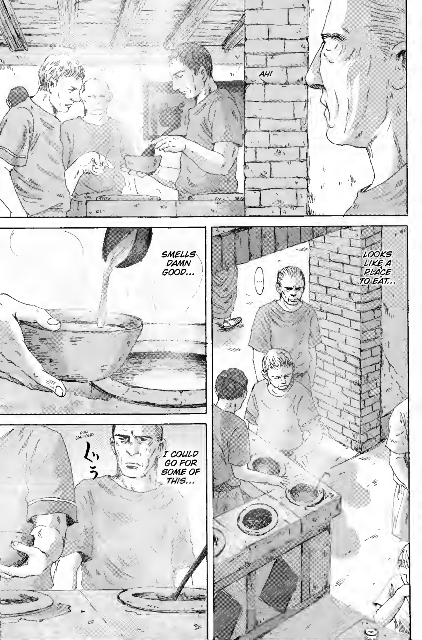

WELL, AT LEAST I'VE MADE MYSELF SOME CASH...
......
TIME TO STEP OUTSIDE!
......
HITA (PLAT)
ヒタ
HITA
ヒタ

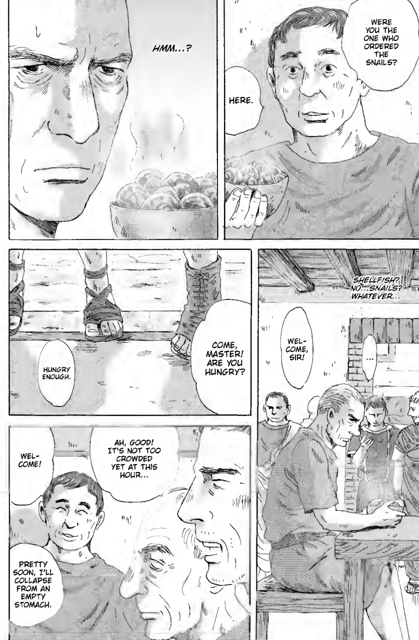

...
WELL, WELL! THIS IS FASCINATING...
FOUR-STORY APARTMENTS...?
HORSE-DRAWN CARTS IN THE STREET...
ガラ
GARA (CLUNK)
ガラ
GARA
ガラ
GARA
AHA! A MAN SELLING CLOTHES!

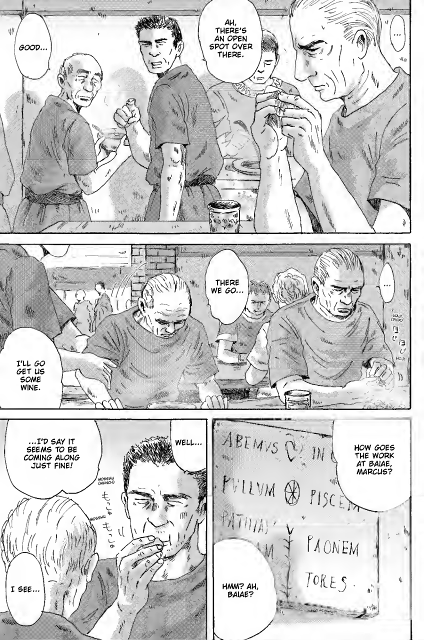

WELCOME, SIR! WHAT ARE YOU AFTER?
I CAN CUT YOU A GOOD DEAL ON THIS TUNIC.
FINE EGYPTIAN LINEN!
IT'S TOUGH AND LONG-LASTING! EXCELLENT VALUE!
THANKS, COME AGAIN!
...
...

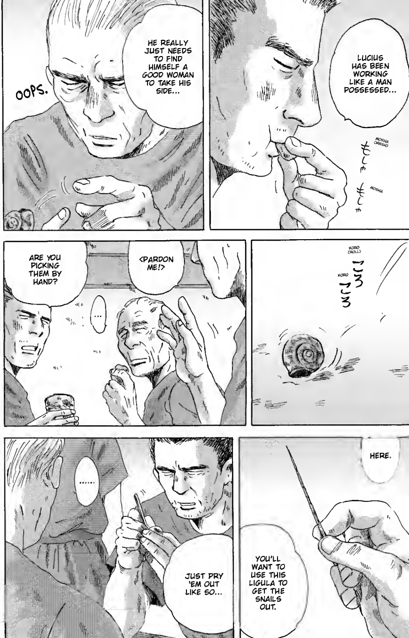

WATCH OUT BELOW! MOVE, MOVE!
DAAH, IT'S PISS!
BISHAA (SPLASH)
バシャー
......
......
THIS IS MADNESS...
BISHAA (SPLATCH)
ビシャー
IS THAT A SHRINE? WELL, NOT TO BUDDHA... BUT SOME KIND OF GOD? WHICH ONE?

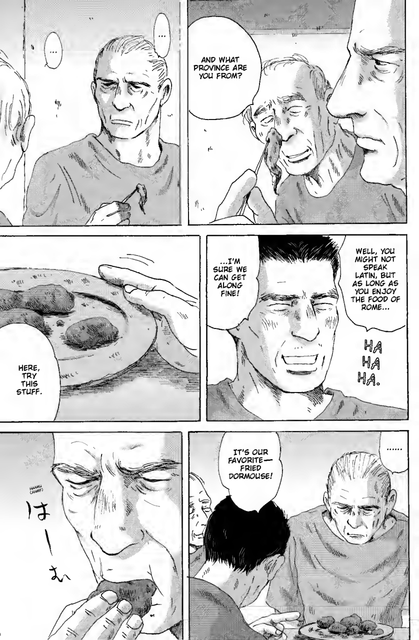

ZAWA (MURMUR)
ざわ
WHERE THE HELL AM I, ANYWAY?
ZAWA
ざわ
ZAWA
ざわ
ZAWA
ざわ
ZAWA
ざわ
IT ALL FEELS... SOMEHOW FAMILIAR THOUGH...
...... HMM?
PUFUUN (WAFT)
プフーーン

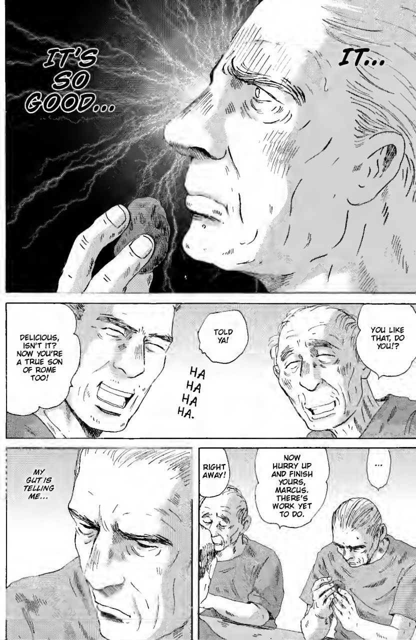

AH!
...
LOOKS LIKE A PLACE TO EAT...
SMELLS DAMN GOOD...
GUU (GURGLE)
ぐぅ
I COULD GO FOR SOME OF THIS...

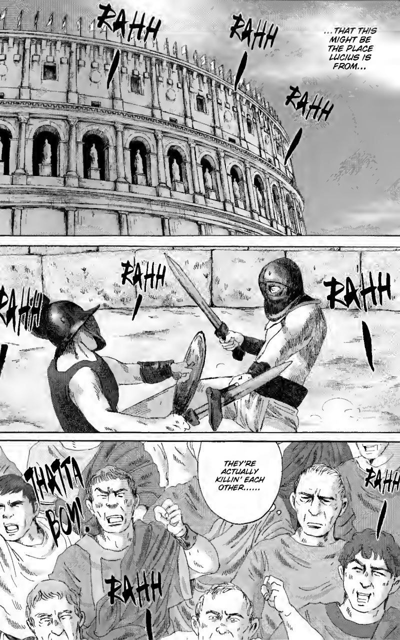

WERE YOU THE ONE WHO ORDERED THE SNAILS?
HERE.
HMM...?
SHELLFISH? NO...SNAILS? WHATEVER...
WEL-COME, SIR!
...
COME, MASTER! ARE YOU HUNGRY?
HUNGRY ENOUGH.
AH, GOOD! IT'S NOT TOO CROWDED YET AT THIS HOUR...
WEL-COME!
PRETTY SOON, I'LL COLLAPSE FROM AN EMPTY STOMACH.

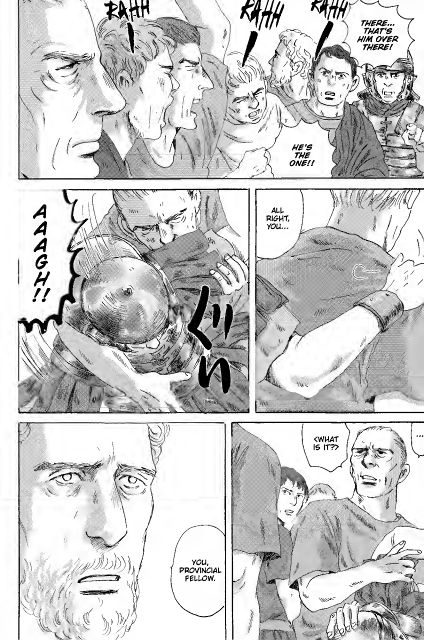

...
AH, THERE'S AN OPEN SPOT OVER THERE.
GOOD...
...
HOJI (PICK) ほじほじ HOJI
THERE WE GO...
I'LL GO GET US SOME WINE.
HOW GOES THE WORK AT BAIAE, MARCUS?
ABEMVS IN C
PULLUM PISCEM
PATINAS
AM PAONEM
TORES.
HMM? AH, BAIAE?
WELL...
...I'D SAY IT SEEMS TO BE COMING ALONG JUST FINE!
MOSSHU (MUNCH) もっしゅ MOSSHU もっしゅ
I SEE...

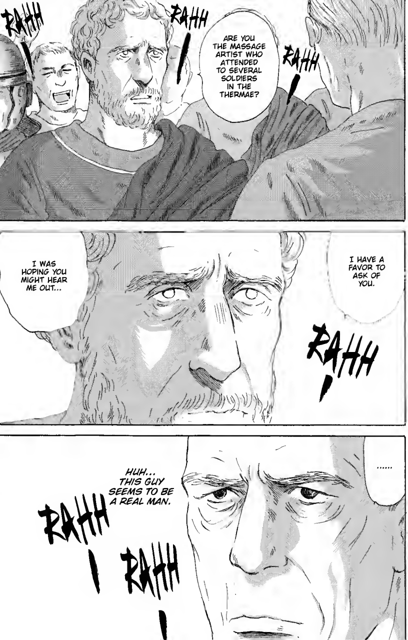

LUCIUS HAS BEEN WORKING LIKE A MAN POSSESSED...
もしゃ MOSHA (MRSH)
もしゃ MOSHA
HE REALLY JUST NEEDS TO FIND HIMSELF A GOOD WOMAN TO TAKE HIS SIDE...
OOPS.
ころ KORO (ROLL)
ころ KORO
<PARDON ME!>
ARE YOU PICKING THEM BY HAND?
...
HERE.
YOU'LL WANT TO USE THIS LIGULA TO GET THE SNAILS OUT.
......
JUST PRY 'EM OUT LIKE SO...

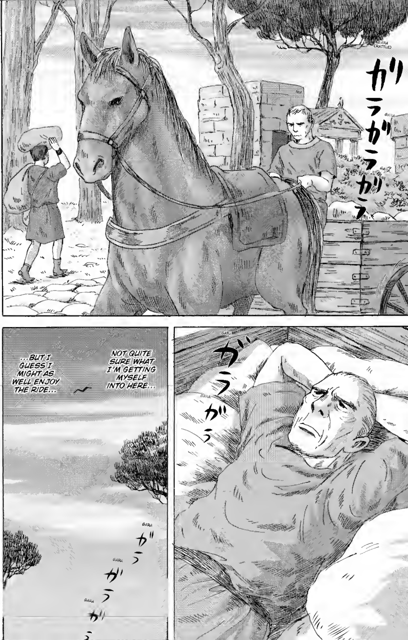

AND WHAT PROVINCE ARE YOU FROM?
...
...
WELL, YOU MIGHT NOT SPEAK LATIN, BUT AS LONG AS YOU ENJOY THE FOOD OF ROME...
...I'M SURE WE CAN GET ALONG FINE!
HA HA HA.
HERE, TRY THIS STUFF.
IT'S OUR FAVORITE— FRIED DORMOUSE!
......
HAAMU (CHOMP)
はーむ


IT...
IT'S SO GOOD...
YOU LIKE THAT, DO YOU!?
TOLD YA!
HA HA HA HA.
DELICIOUS, ISN'T IT? NOW YOU'RE A TRUE SON OF ROME TOO!
...
NOW HURRY UP AND FINISH YOURS, MARCUS. THERE'S WORK YET TO DO.
RIGHT AWAY!
MY GUT IS TELLING ME...

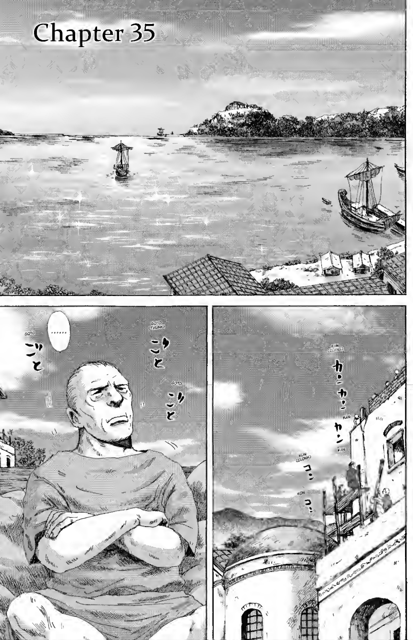

...THAT THIS MIGHT BE THE PLACE LUCIUS IS FROM...
RAHH!
RAHH!
RAHH!
RAHH!
RAHH!
RAHH!
THEY'RE ACTUALLY KILLIN' EACH OTHER......
RAHH!
THATTA BOY!
RAHH!

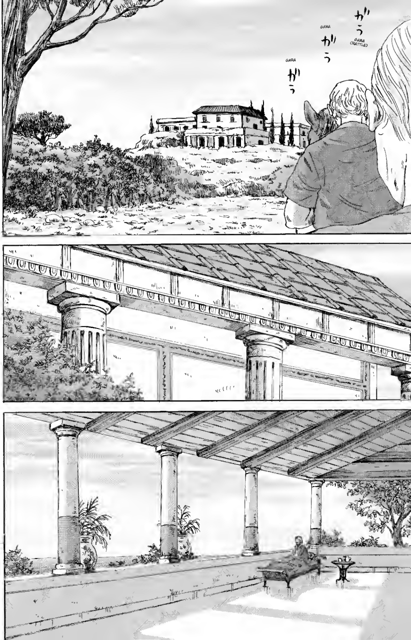

THERE... THAT'S HIM OVER THERE!
RAHH
RAHH
RAHH
HE'S THE ONE!!
ALL RIGHT, YOU...
AAAAGH!!
ぐい
GUI (SWISH)
...
<WHAT IS IT?>
YOU, PROVINCIAL FELLOW.

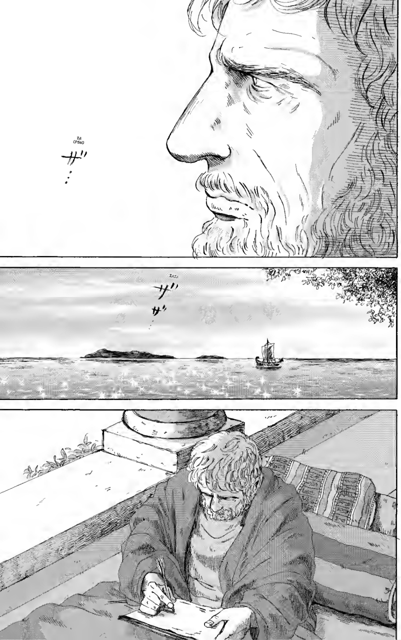

RAHH
ARE YOU THE MASSAGE ARTIST WHO ATTENDED TO SEVERAL SOLDIERS IN THE THERMAE?
RAHH
RAHH
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU.
I WAS HOPING YOU MIGHT HEAR ME OUT...
RAHH
......
HUH... THIS GUY SEEMS TO BE A REAL MAN.
RAHH
RAHH

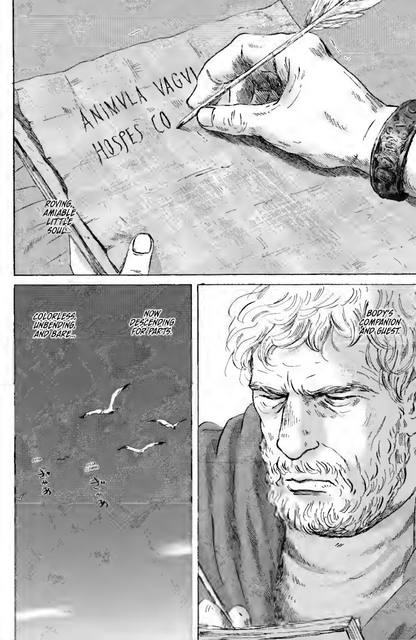

GARA (RATTLE)
ガラ
GARA
ガラ
GARA
ガラ
GARA
ガラ
GARA
ガラ
NOT QUITE SURE WHAT I'M GETTING MYSELF INTO HERE...
...BUT I GUESS I MIGHT AS WELL ENJOY THE RIDE...
GARA
ガラ
GARA
ガラ
GARA
ガラ

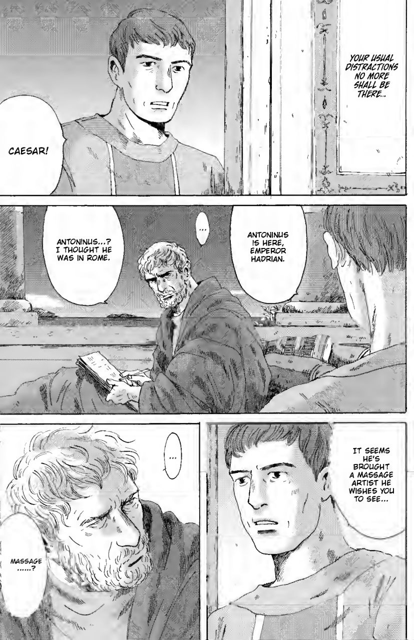
Chapter 35

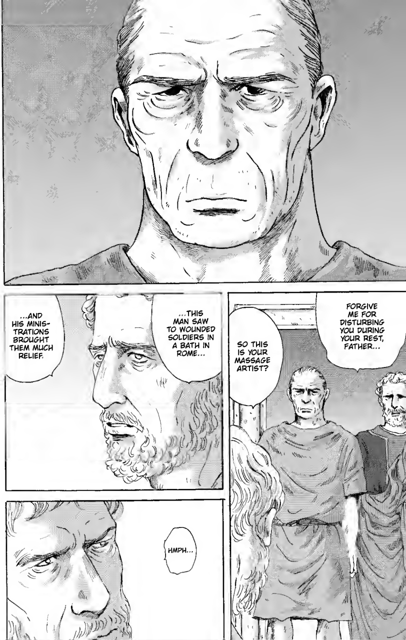

KAN (CLANG)
カンカン
KAN
カン
KAN
KON (CLONK)
コン
KON
コン
GOTO (THUNK)
ゴト
GOTO
ゴト
……
GOTO
ゴト

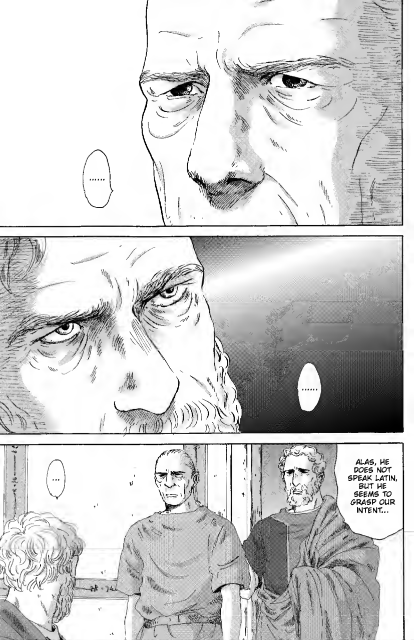

ガラ
GARA (RATTLE)
ガラ
GARA
ガラ
GARA

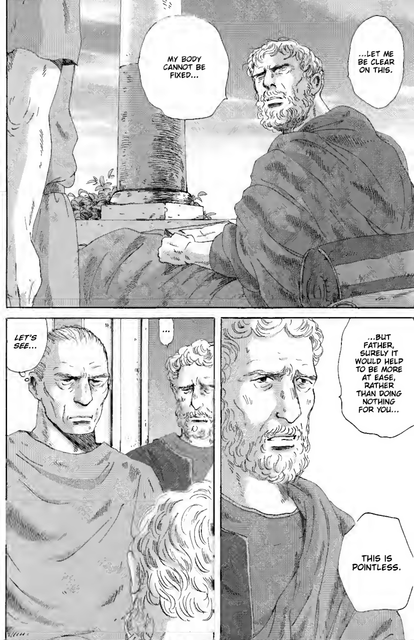

ZA (PSH)
ザ…
ZAZA
ザザ…

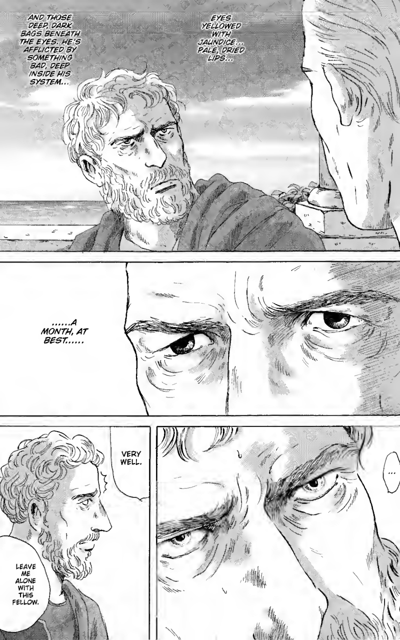

ANIMVLA VAGVL
HOSPES CO
ROVING, AMIABLE LITTLE SOUL...
BODY'S COMPANION AND GUEST.
NOW DESCENDING FOR PARTS.
COLORLESS, UNBENDING, AND BARE...
GYAA (CAWW)
ぎゃあ
GYAA
ぎゃあ

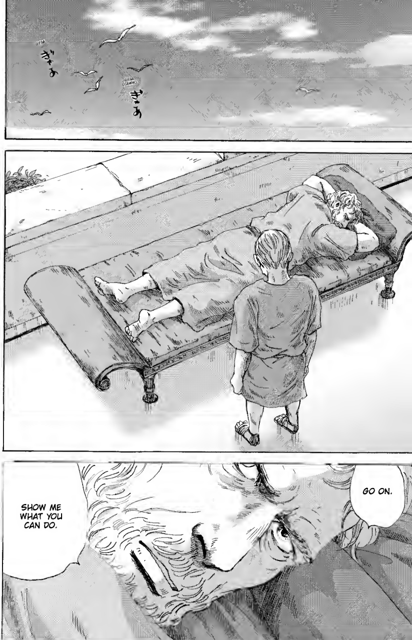

YOUR USUAL DISTRACTIONS NO MORE SHALL BE THERE...
CAESAR!
ANTONINUS IS HERE, EMPEROR HADRIAN.
...
ANTONINUS...? I THOUGHT HE WAS IN ROME.
IT SEEMS HE'S BROUGHT A MASSAGE ARTIST HE WISHES YOU TO SEE...
...
MASSAGE ......?

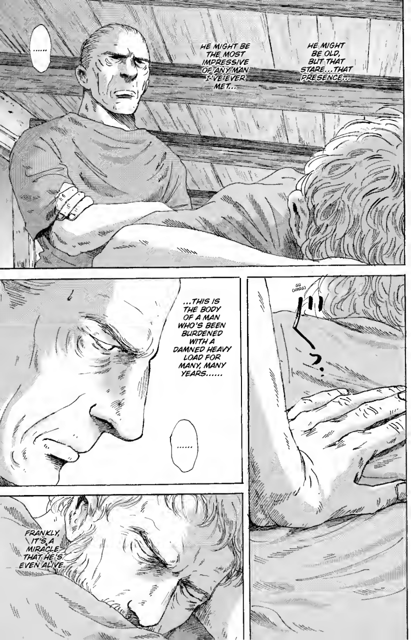

FORGIVE ME FOR DISTURBING YOU DURING YOUR REST, FATHER...
SO THIS IS YOUR MASSAGE ARTIST?
...THIS MAN SAW TO WOUNDED SOLDIERS IN A BATH IN ROME...
...AND HIS MINISTRATIONS BROUGHT THEM MUCH RELIEF.
HMPH...

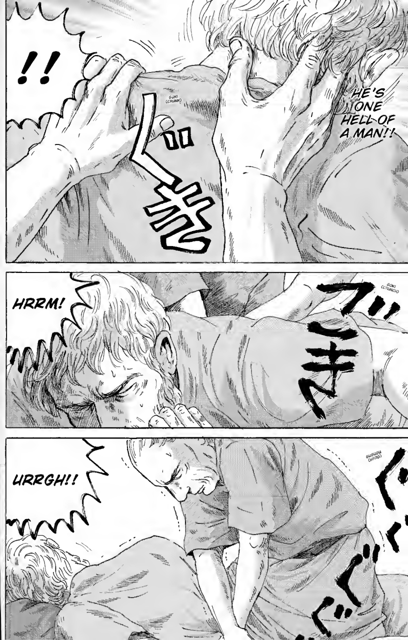

……
……
ALAS, HE DOES NOT SPEAK LATIN, BUT HE SEEMS TO GRASP OUR INTENT...
...

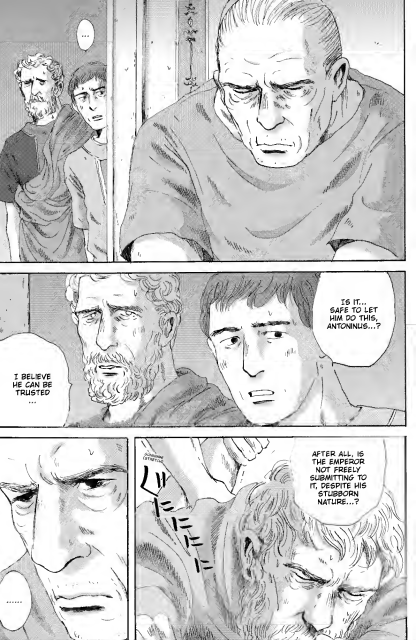

...LET ME BE CLEAR ON THIS.
MY BODY CANNOT BE FIXED...
...BUT FATHER, SURELY IT WOULD HELP TO BE MORE AT EASE, RATHER THAN DOING NOTHING FOR YOU...
THIS IS POINTLESS.
...
LET'S SEE...

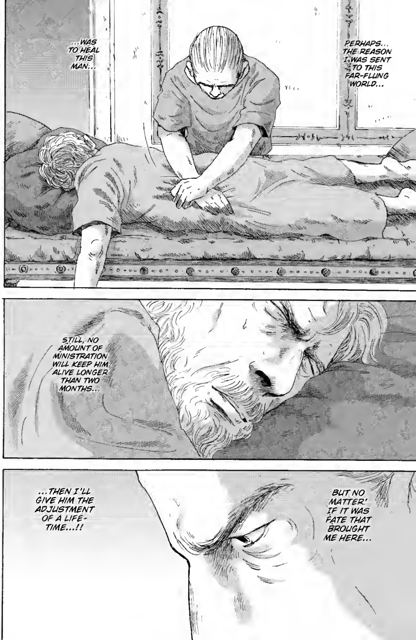

EYES YELLOWED WITH JAUNDICE... PALE, DRIED LIPS...
AND THOSE DEEP, DARK BAGS BENEATH THE EYES. HE'S AFFLICTED BY SOMETHING BAD, DEEP INSIDE HIS SYSTEM...
......A MONTH, AT BEST......
...
VERY WELL.
LEAVE ME ALONE WITH THIS FELLOW.

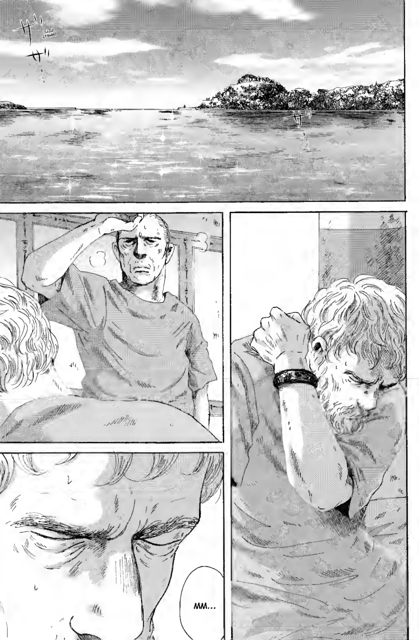

GYA (CAWW)
ぎゃあ
GYA
ぎゃあ
GO ON.
SHOW ME WHAT YOU CAN DO.

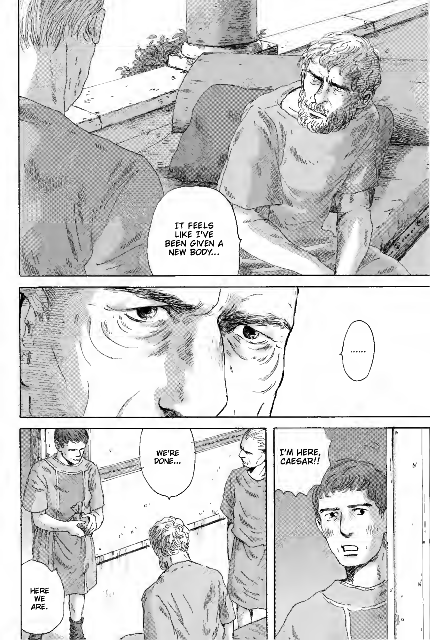

HE MIGHT BE OLD, BUT THAT STARE...THAT PRESENCE...
HE MIGHT BE THE MOST IMPRESSIVE OF ANY MAN I'VE EVER MET...
......
GU (HRRG)
...THIS IS THE BODY OF A MAN WHO'S BEEN BURDENED WITH A DAMNED HEAVY LOAD FOR MANY, MANY YEARS......
......
FRANKLY, IT'S A MIRACLE THAT HE'S EVEN ALIVE.

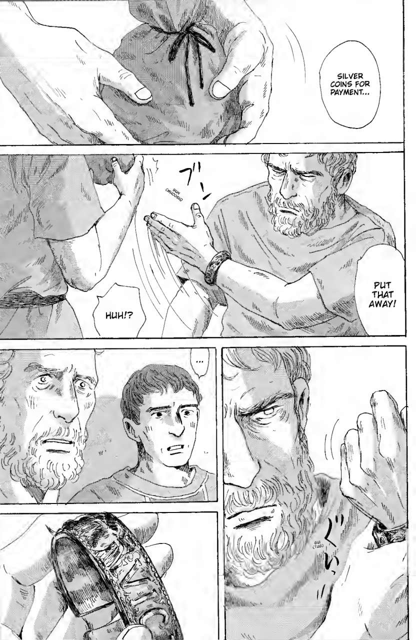

HE'S ONE HELL OF A MAN!!
GUKI (CRUNK)
!!
GOKI (CRUNCH)
HRRM!
GUGUGU (WHIRG)
URRGH!!

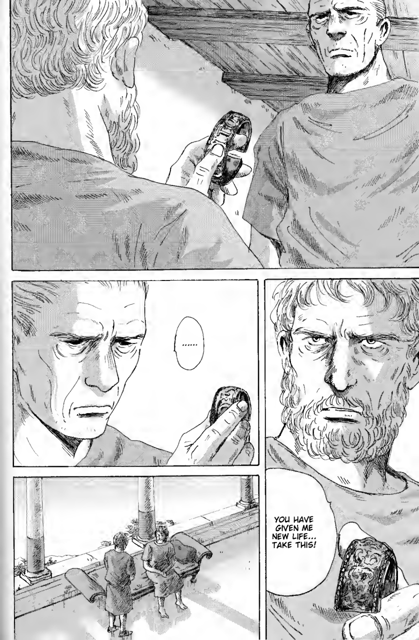

...
IS IT... SAFE TO LET HIM DO THIS, ANTONINUS...?
I BELIEVE HE CAN BE TRUSTED ...
GUNININI (STRETCH)
ぐにににに
AFTER ALL, IS THE EMPEROR NOT FREELY SUBMITTING TO IT, DESPITE HIS STUBBORN NATURE...?
......

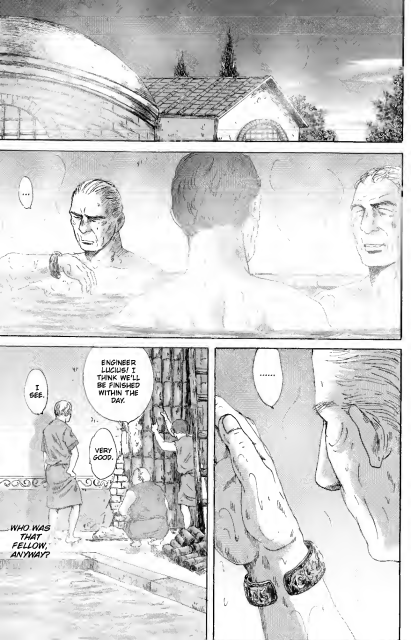

PERHAPS... THE REASON I WAS SENT TO THIS FAR-FLUNG WORLD...
...WAS TO HEAL THIS MAN...
STILL, NO AMOUNT OF MINISTRATION WILL KEEP HIM ALIVE LONGER THAN TWO MONTHS...
BUT NO MATTER IF IT WAS FATE THAT BROUGHT ME HERE...
...THEN I'LL GIVE HIM THE ADJUSTMENT OF A LIFETIME...!!

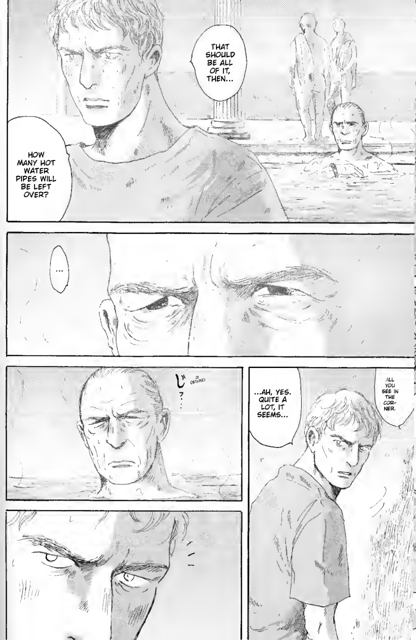

ザザ
ZAZA (FSHH)
MM...

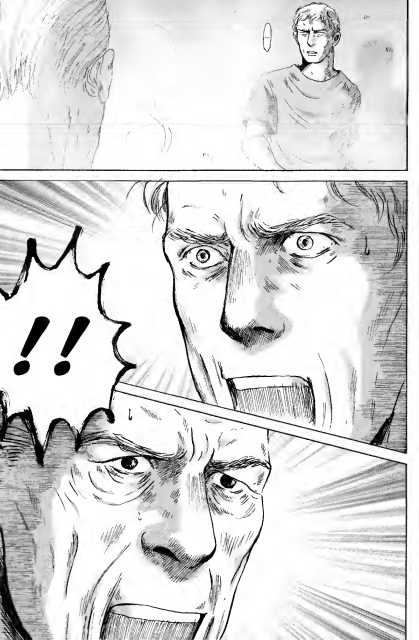

IT FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN GIVEN A NEW BODY...
......
I'M HERE, CAESAR!!
WE'RE DONE...
HERE WE ARE.

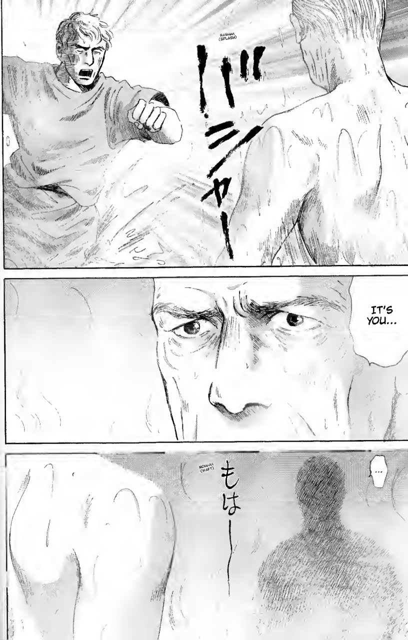

SILVER COINS FOR PAYMENT...
PUT THAT AWAY!
ブン
BUN (WHOOSH)
HUH!?
ぐいっ
GUI (TUG)
...

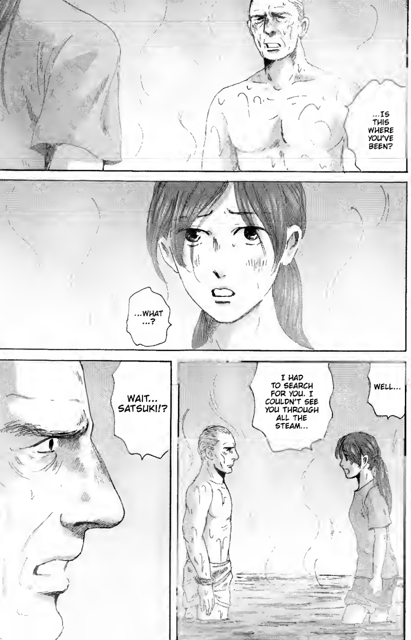

YOU HAVE GIVEN ME NEW LIFE... TAKE THIS!
......

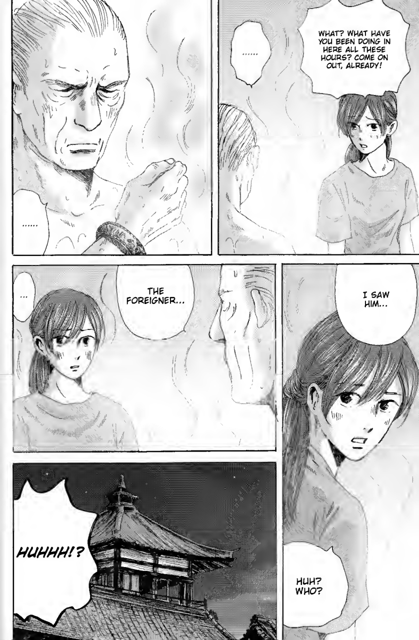

...
......
ENGINEER LUCIUS! I THINK WE'LL BE FINISHED WITHIN THE DAY.
I SEE.
VERY GOOD.
WHO WAS THAT FELLOW, ANYWAY?


THAT SHOULD BE ALL OF IT, THEN...
HOW MANY HOT WATER PIPES WILL BE LEFT OVER?
...
ALL YOU SEE IN THE CORNER.
...AH, YES. QUITE A LOT, IT SEEMS...
じー
JI (STARE)

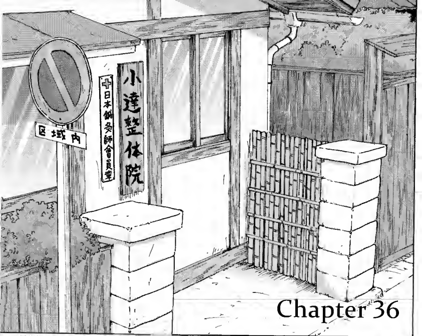



バシャー
BASHAA (SPLASH)
IT'S YOU...
...
もはー
MOHAAA (WAFT)


...IS THIS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN?
...WHAT ...?
WELL...
I HAD TO SEARCH FOR YOU. I COULDN'T SEE YOU THROUGH ALL THE STEAM...
WAIT... SATSUKI!?

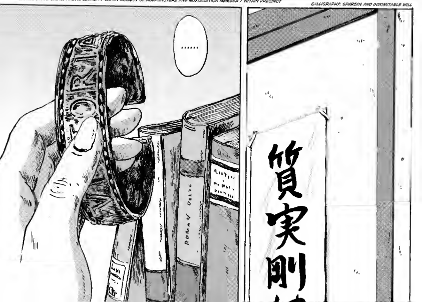

......
WHAT? WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING IN HERE ALL THESE HOURS? COME ON OUT, ALREADY!
......
...
THE FOREIGNER...
I SAW HIM...
HUH? WHO?
HUHHH!?

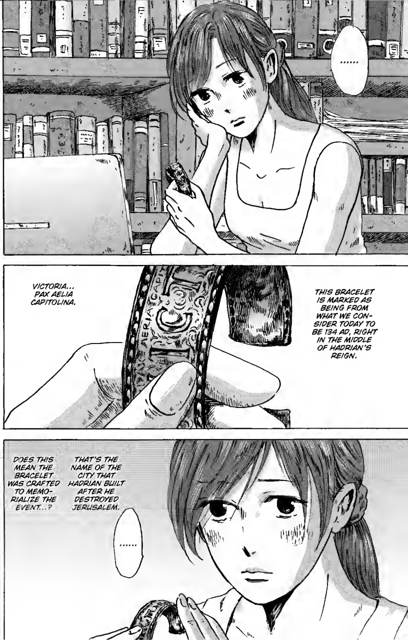
Chapter 36

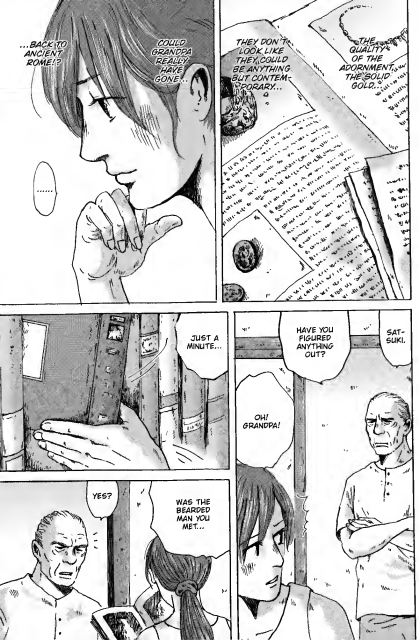

小達整体院
日本鍼灸師會員章
区域内

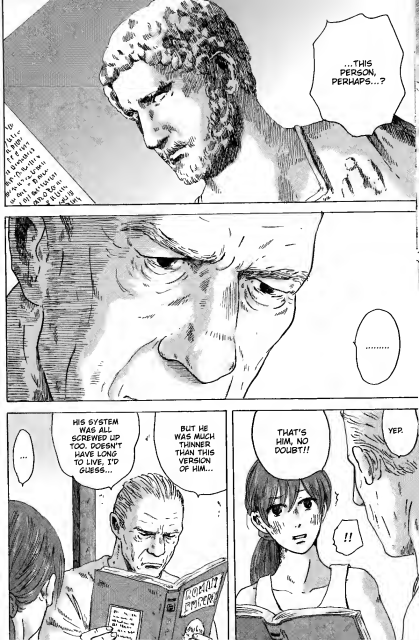
SIGNS: ODATE CHIROPRACTIC CENTER / JAPAN SOCIETY OF ACUPUNCTURE AND MOXIBUSTION MEMBER / WITHIN PRECINCT

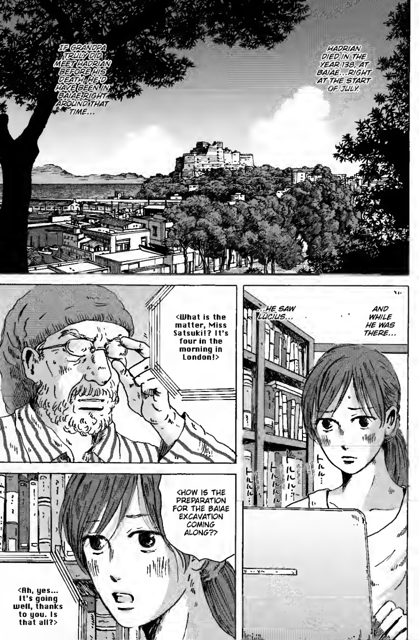
CALLIGRAPHY: SPARTAN AND INDOMITABLE WILL

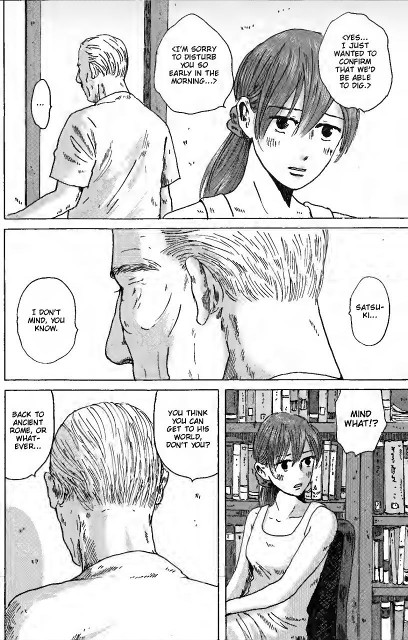


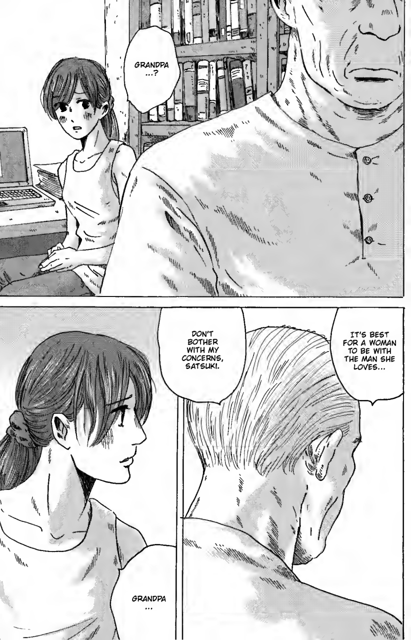

……
THIS BRACELET IS MARKED AS BEING FROM WHAT WE CONSIDER TODAY TO BE 134 AD, RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF HADRIAN'S REIGN.
VICTORIA... PAX AELIA CAPITOLINA.
THAT'S THE NAME OF THE CITY THAT HADRIAN BUILT AFTER HE DESTROYED JERUSALEM.
DOES THIS MEAN THE BRACELET WAS CRAFTED TO MEMORIALIZE THE EVENT...?
……

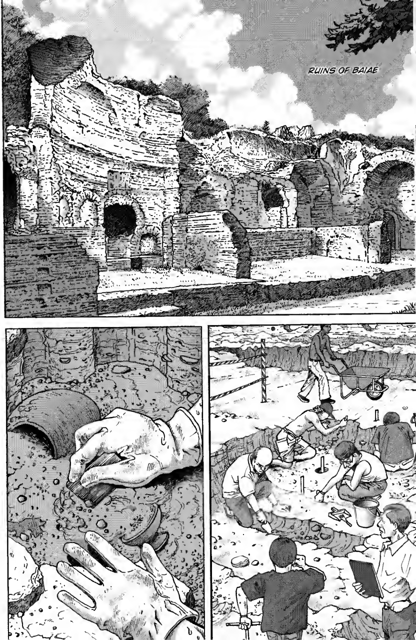

THE QUALITY OF THE ADORNMENT, THE SOLID GOLD...
THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE THEY COULD BE ANYTHING BUT CONTEMPORARY...
COULD GRANDPA REALLY HAVE GONE...
...BACK TO ANCIENT ROME!?
......
SATSUKI.
HAVE YOU FIGURED ANYTHING OUT?
OH! GRANDPA!
JUST A MINUTE...
WAS THE BEARDED MAN YOU MET...
YES?

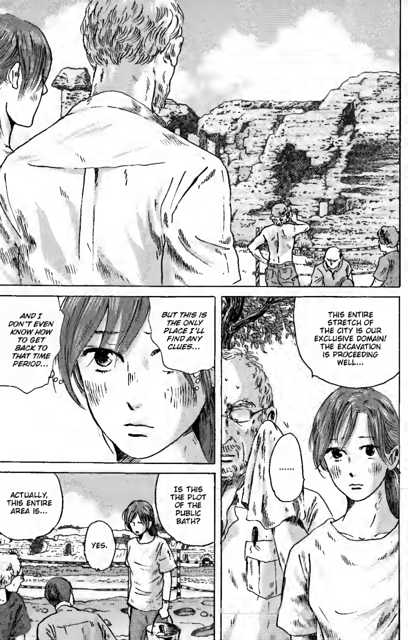

...THIS PERSON, PERHAPS...?
....
YEP.
THAT'S HIM, NO DOUBT!!
!!
BUT HE WAS MUCH THINNER THAN THIS VERSION OF HIM...
HIS SYSTEM WAS ALL SCREWED UP TOO. DOESN'T HAVE LONG TO LIVE, I'D GUESS...
...
ROMAN EMPERO

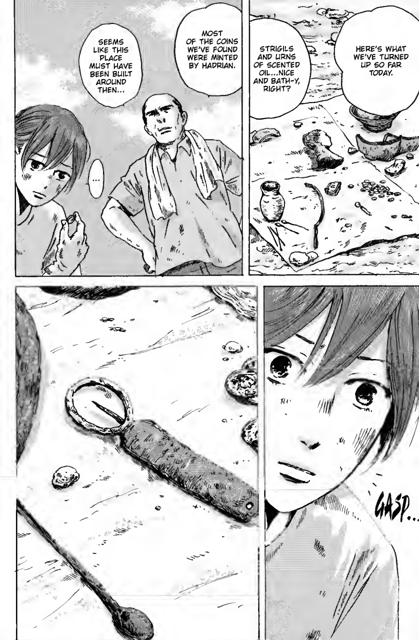

HADRIAN DIED IN THE YEAR 138, AT BAIAE...RIGHT AT THE START OF JULY.
IF GRANDPA TRULY DID MEET HADRIAN BEFORE HIS DEATH, HE'D HAVE BEEN IN BAIAE RIGHT AROUND THAT TIME...
AND WHILE HE WAS THERE...
...HE SAW LUCIUS...
トルル…
TORURU (STEP)
トルルル…
TORURURU
トルルルル
TORURURU
トルルル…
TORURURU…
<What is the matter, Miss Satsuki!? It's four in the morning in London!>
<HOW IS THE PREPARATION FOR THE BAIAE EXCAVATION COMING ALONG?>
<Ah, yes... It's going well, thanks to you. Is that all?>

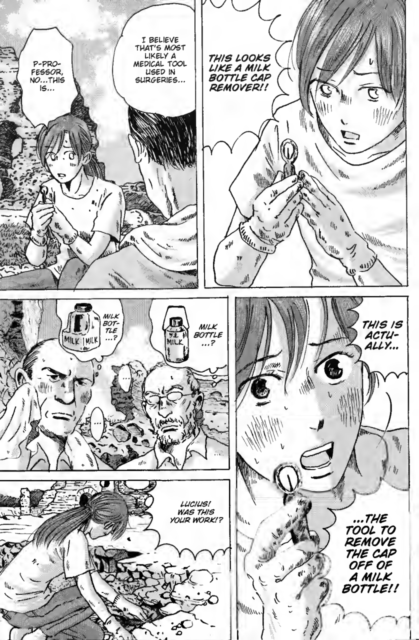

<YES... I JUST WANTED TO CONFIRM THAT WE'D BE ABLE TO DIG.>
<I'M SORRY TO DISTURB YOU SO EARLY IN THE MORNING...>
...
SATSUKI...
I DON'T MIND, YOU KNOW.
MIND WHAT!?
YOU THINK YOU CAN GET TO HIS WORLD, DON'T YOU?
BACK TO ANCIENT ROME, OR WHATEVER...

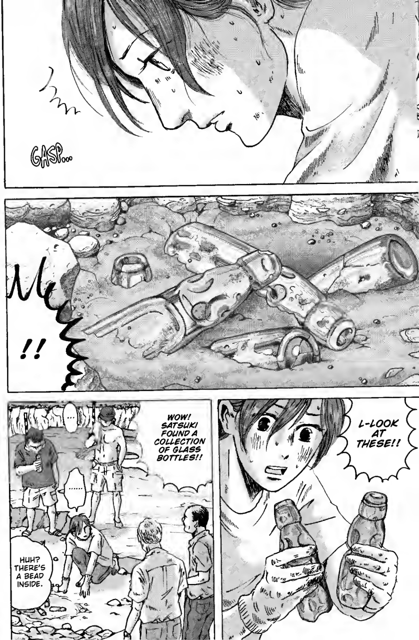

GRANDPA ...?
IT'S BEST FOR A WOMAN TO BE WITH THE MAN SHE LOVES...
DON'T BOTHER WITH MY CONCERNS, SATSUKI.
GRANDPA ...

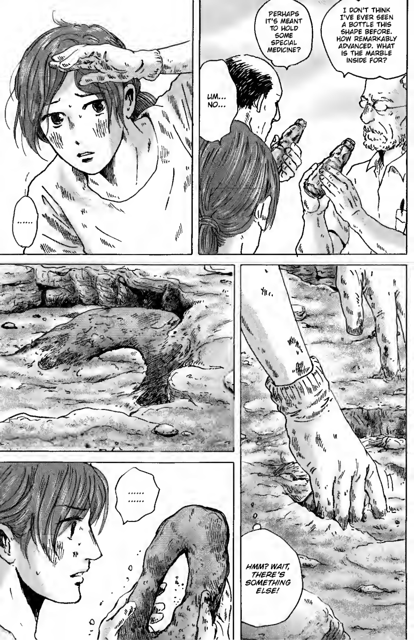

RUINS OF BAIAE

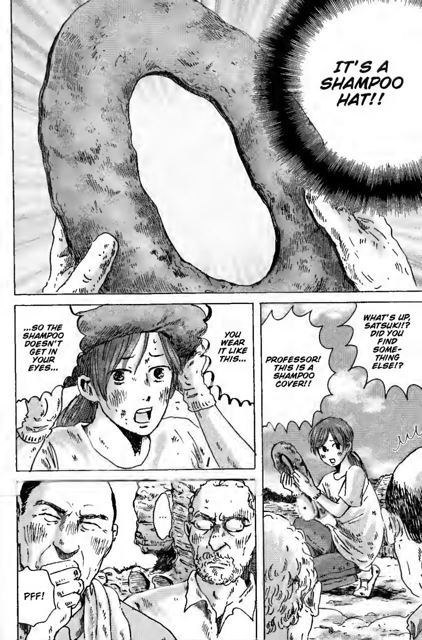

AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO GET BACK TO THAT TIME PERIOD...
BUT THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE I'LL FIND ANY CLUES...
IS THIS THE PLOT OF THE PUBLIC BATH?
YES.
ACTUALLY, THIS ENTIRE AREA IS...
THIS ENTIRE STRETCH OF THE CITY IS OUR EXCLUSIVE DOMAIN! THE EXCAVATION IS PROCEEDING WELL...
......

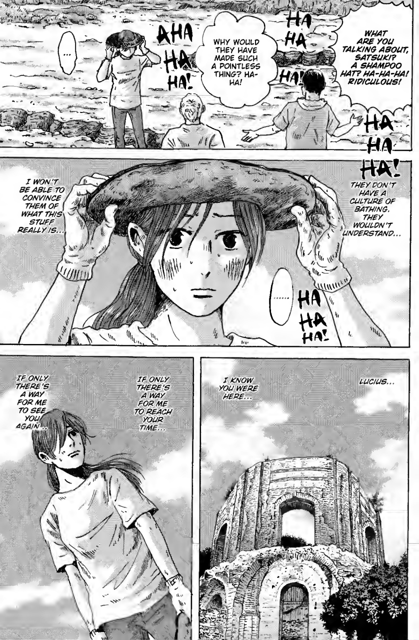

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE TURNED UP SO FAR TODAY.
STRIGILS AND URNS OF SCENTED OIL...NICE AND BATH-Y, RIGHT?
MOST OF THE COINS WE'VE FOUND WERE MINTED BY HADRIAN.
SEEMS LIKE THIS PLACE MUST HAVE BEEN BUILT AROUND THEN...
...
GASP...

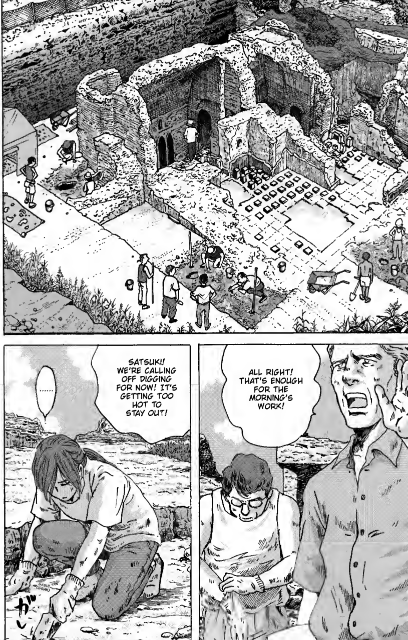

I BELIEVE THAT'S MOST LIKELY A MEDICAL TOOL USED IN SURGERIES...
P-PROFESSOR, NO...THIS IS...
THIS LOOKS LIKE A MILK BOTTLE CAP REMOVER!!
MILK BOTTLE...?
MILK MILK
MILK BOTTLE...?
MILK
...
...
THIS IS ACTUALLY...
...THE TOOL TO REMOVE THE CAP OFF OF A MILK BOTTLE!!
LUCIUS! WAS THIS YOUR WORK!?

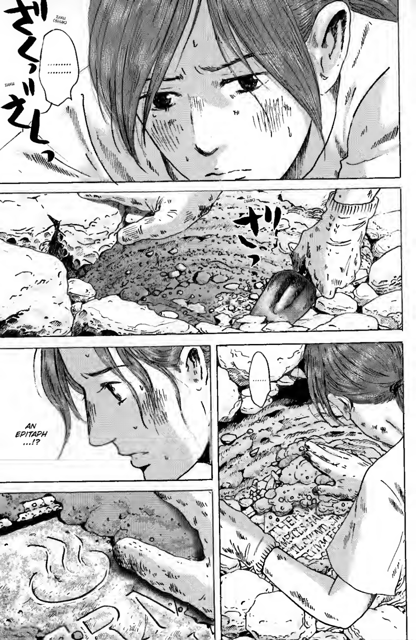

GASP...
!!
L-LOOK AT THESE!!
...
WOW! SATSUKI FOUND A COLLECTION OF GLASS BOTTLES!!
......
HUH? THERE'S A BEAD INSIDE.

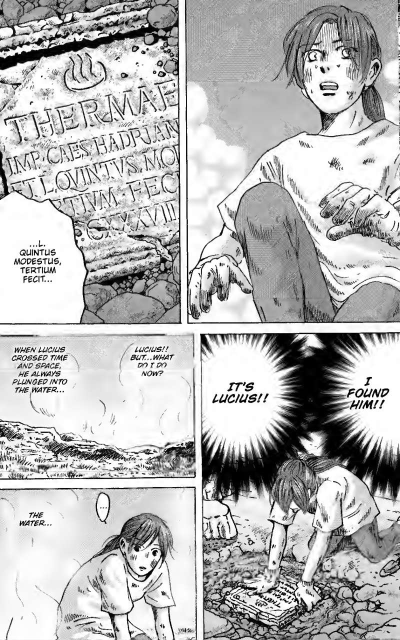

I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN A BOTTLE THIS SHAPE BEFORE. HOW REMARKABLY ADVANCED. WHAT IS THE MARBLE INSIDE FOR?
PERHAPS IT'S MEANT TO HOLD SOME SPECIAL MEDICINE?
UM... NO...
......
HMM? WAIT, THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE!
....

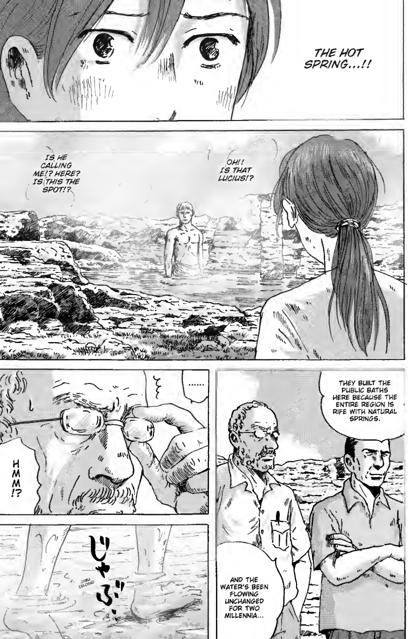

IT'S A SHAMPOO HAT!!
WHAT'S UP, SATSUKI!? DID YOU FIND SOME-THING ELSE!?
PROFESSOR! THIS IS A SHAMPOO COVER!!
YOU WEAR IT LIKE THIS...
...SO THE SHAMPOO DOESN'T GET IN YOUR EYES...
...
PFF!

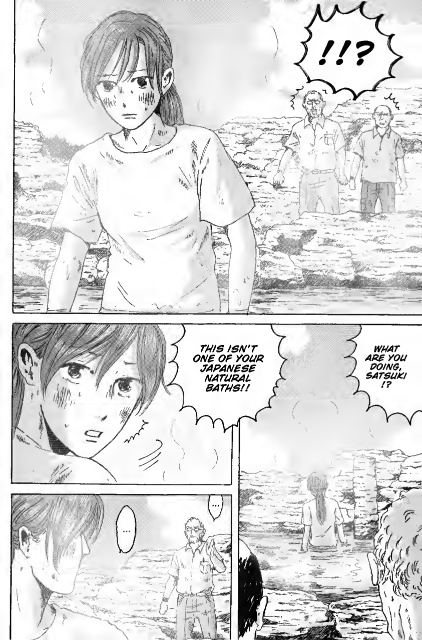

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SATSUKI? A SHAMPOO HAT? HA-HA-HA! RIDICULOUS!
HA HA HA!
HA HA HA!
WHY WOULD THEY HAVE MADE SUCH A POINTLESS THING? HA-HA!
AHA HA HA!
...
THEY DON'T HAVE A CULTURE OF BATHING. THEY WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND...
I WON'T BE ABLE TO CONVINCE THEM OF WHAT THIS STUFF REALLY IS...
HA HA HA!
......
LUCIUS...
I KNOW YOU WERE HERE...
IF ONLY THERE'S A WAY FOR ME TO REACH YOUR TIME...
IF ONLY THERE'S A WAY FOR ME TO SEE YOU AGAIN...

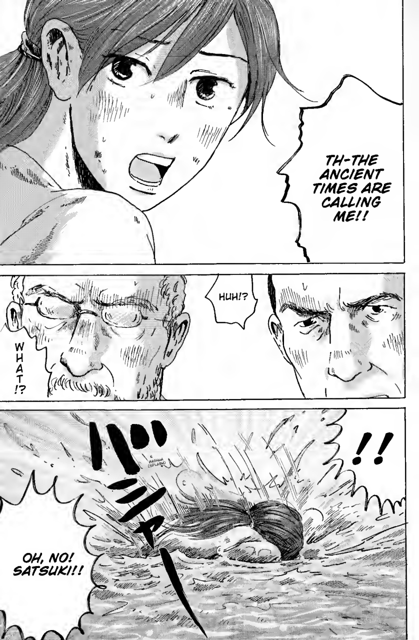

ALL RIGHT! THAT'S ENOUGH FOR THE MORNING'S WORK!
SATSUKI! WE'RE CALLING OFF DIGGING FOR NOW! IT'S GETTING TOO HOT TO STAY OUT!
......
GASHI (GSHK)
がし

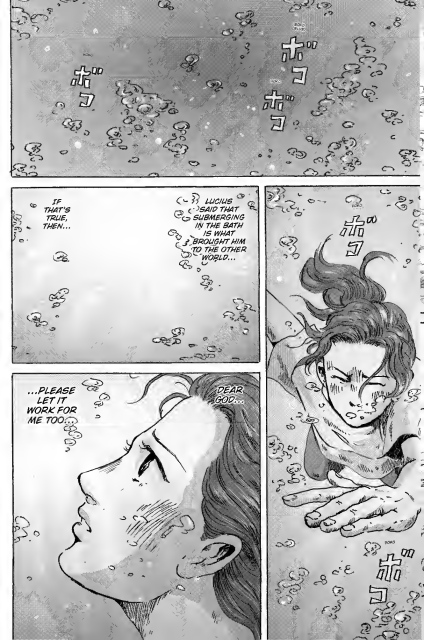

ざくっ
ZAKU (SHUK)
ざしっ
ZAKU
....
....
ザリッ
ZA (SHUK)
......
AN EPITAPH ...!?

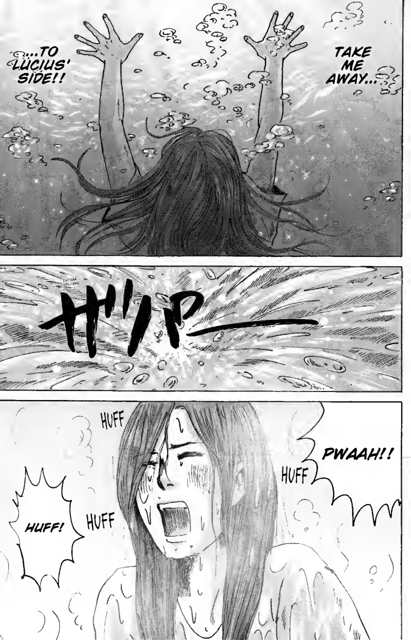

THERMAE
IMP. CAES HADRIAN
ET L. QVINTVS MO
TIVM FEC
CXXVIII
...L. QUINTUS MODESTUS, TERTIUM FECIT...
IT'S LUCIUS!!
I FOUND HIM!!
LUCIUS!! BUT...WHAT DO I DO NOW?
WHEN LUCIUS CROSSED TIME AND SPACE, HE ALWAYS PLUNGED INTO THE WATER...
...
THE WATER...

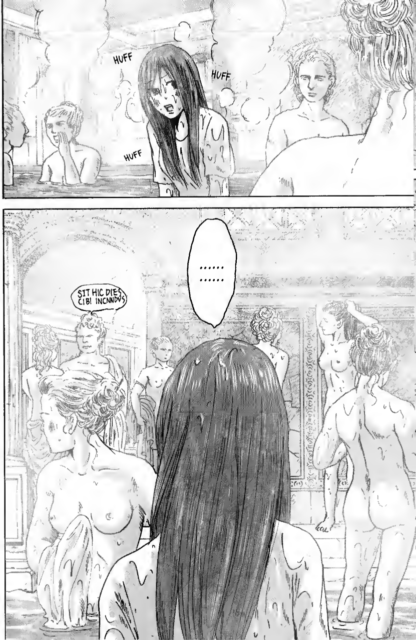

THE HOT SPRING...!!
OH!! IS THAT LUCIUS!?
IS HE CALLING ME!? HERE? IS THIS THE SPOT!?
THEY BUILT THE PUBLIC BATHS HERE BECAUSE THE ENTIRE REGION IS RIFE WITH NATURAL SPRINGS.
AND THE WATER'S BEEN FLOWING UNCHANGED FOR TWO MILLENNIA...
......
HMM!?
じゃぶ
JABU (SLOSH)


!!?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SATSUKI !?
THIS ISN'T ONE OF YOUR JAPANESE NATURAL BATHS!!
...
...


TH-THE ANCIENT TIMES ARE CALLING ME!!
HUH!?
WHAT!?
!!
バシャー
BASHAA (SPLASH)
OH, NO! SATSUKI!!


BOKO (BLUB)
ボコ
BOKO
ボコ
BOKO
ボコ
BOKO
ボコ
LUCIUS SAID THAT SUBMERGING IN THE BATH IS WHAT BROUGHT HIM TO THE OTHER WORLD...
IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN...
DEAR GOD...
...PLEASE LET IT WORK FOR ME TOO...
BOKO
ボコ


TAKE ME AWAY...
...TO LUCIUS' SIDE!!
ZAPAAA (SPLASH)
ザパー
PWAAH!!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF!


HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
......
......
SIT HIC DIES
CIBI INCNNDVS

ROME & BATHS, THE LOVES OF MY LIFE

The HBO series *Rome* was in large part the reason that I began drawing this manga. When I learned that the live-action *Thermae Romae* movie would be filmed on the incredibly expensive sets built for *Rome*, it was one of the most joyful moments in my life. I eagerly watched this epic TV series back when I lived in Lisbon, trawling the net and reading exclusive articles from the show's creative producers detailing life behind the scenes. If I had any idea at the time that my own manga would end up so deeply connected to this modern classic...

There have been numerous films and television shows based on ancient Rome, of course, and as our archaeological abilities grow and our understanding of life in ancient times is refined, our re-creations of historical accounts grow more and more faithful to what it must have been like back then.

As the people of the Renaissance became enchanted by the artifacts of the refined culture of ancient Rome, they turned to art to portray Roman life as they envisioned it. As a fellow illustrator with the same field of interest, I can't help but feel sorry for those artists, who would not have known of the pristine remains of Pompeii and Herculaneum at the time. With our contemporary technology, the capability of modern archaeology has exploded, leading to constant discoveries that rewrite what we thought we knew about life in ancient times.

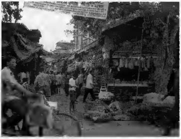
On the movie set

What *Rome* did so well was to overturn the luxurious image of previous depictions by showing Rome as a truly lived-in place, dirty and chaotic. In 1950s Hollywood epics like *Ben-Hur* and *Cleopatra*, we saw the discrepancy between regal nobles and helpless slaves, but there is hardly any thought given to the normal people of Rome in those films.

Rome's protagonist, however, is a soldier who makes his living fighting on the borders of the empire, and the show explores his life upon returning to the city in a way never before seen in a production depicting ancient Rome. According to the show's art director, they used modern-day Mumbai as inspiration for their sets. Once I heard that, it all clicked for me.

I already knew from researching various historical texts that everyday life in Rome was pungent with the ammonia of human urine, the alleys were regularly spotted with not just animal but human corpses as well, and wandering about at night was a good way to wind up dead, so the portrait of the city realized in *Rome* was especially refreshing to me. (As a side note, you'll notice in the manga that despite the existence of plumbing and public bathrooms, most normal families collected urine in pans that they dumped over the street. At cleaners and dye-makers, human urine was used as disinfectant and a coloring agent.)

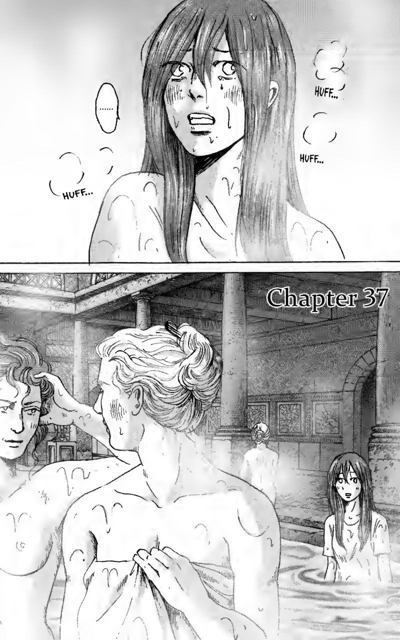
Perhaps in another ten or fifty years, new discoveries will be reflected in yet another version of ancient Rome. As culture advances, the distant past is brought closer to the truth with ever more vibrant color.

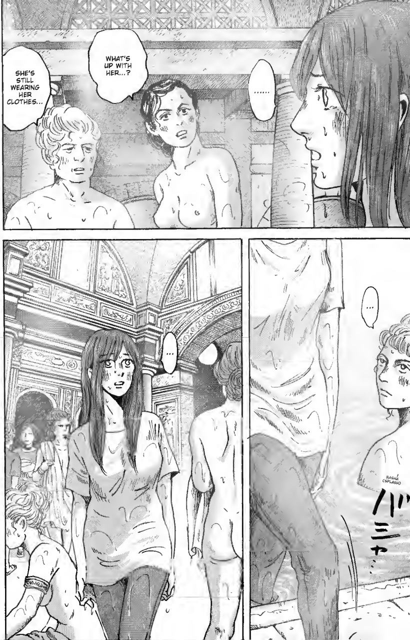


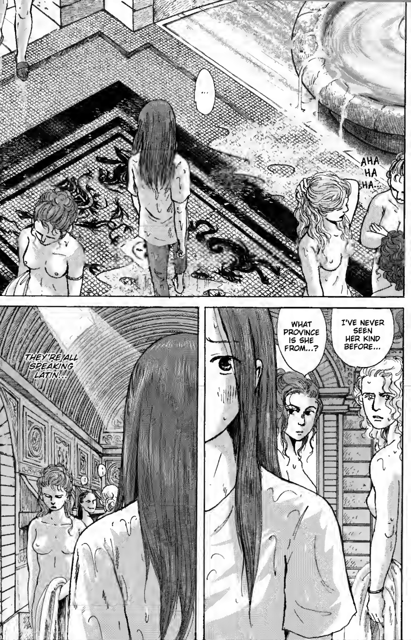
Mumbai, India

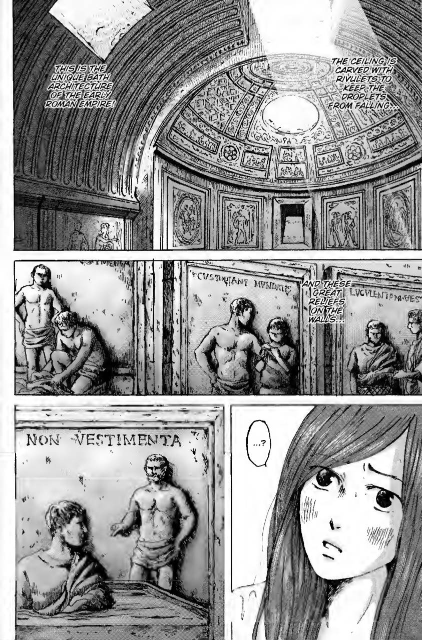
The Rome set based on Mumbai

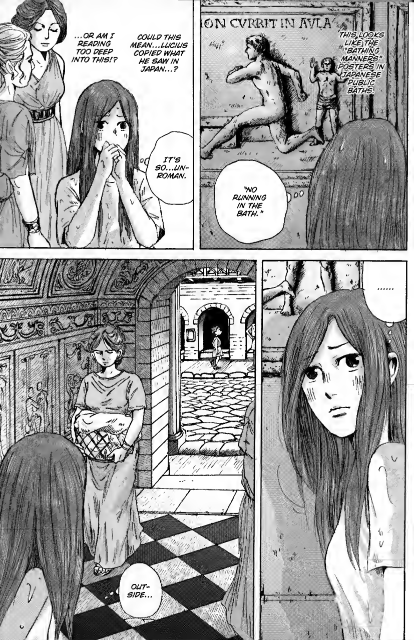
Chapter 37

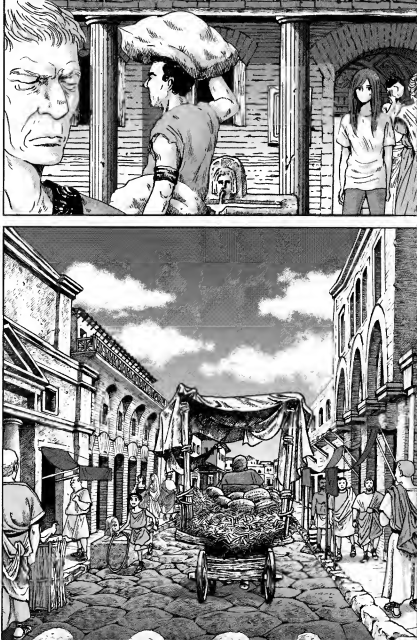

HUFF...
HUFF...
......
HUFF...

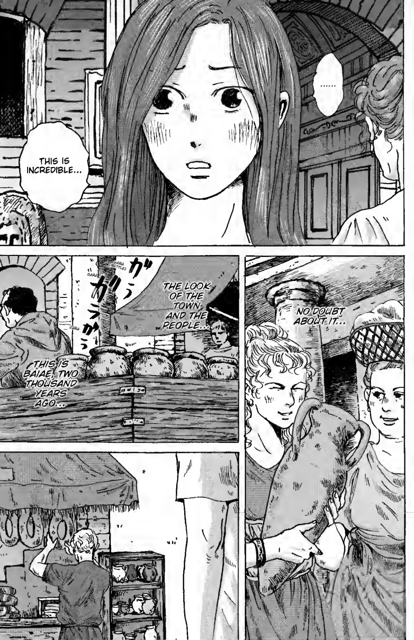

......
WHAT'S UP WITH HER...?
SHE'S STILL WEARING HER CLOTHES...
...
BASHA (SPLASH)
バシャ…
...

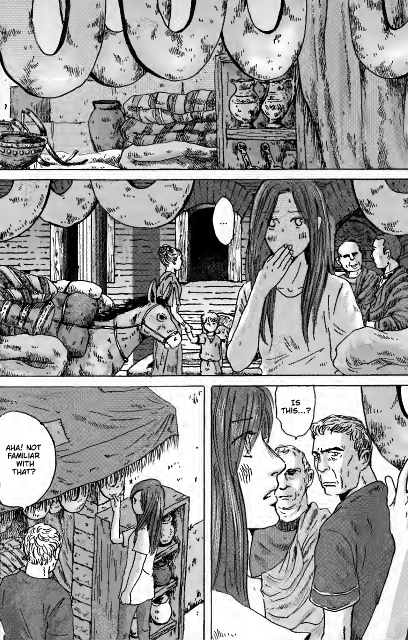

AHA HA HA...
...
I'VE NEVER SEEN HER KIND BEFORE...
WHAT PROVINCE IS SHE FROM...?
!
!
THEY'RE ALL SPEAKING LATIN...

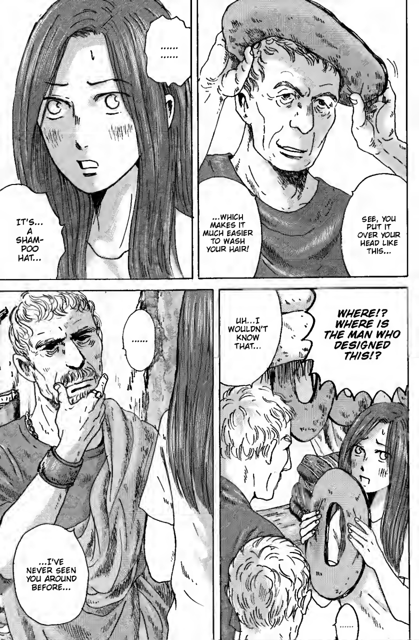

THIS IS THE UNIQUE BATH ARCHITECTURE OF THE EARLY ROMAN EMPIRE!
THE CEILING IS CARVED WITH RIVULETS TO KEEP THE DROPLETS FROM FALLING...
CVSTODIANT MVNDATIS
AND THESE GREAT RELIEFS ON THE WALLS...
LVCVLENTAM VEST
NON VESTIMENTA
...?

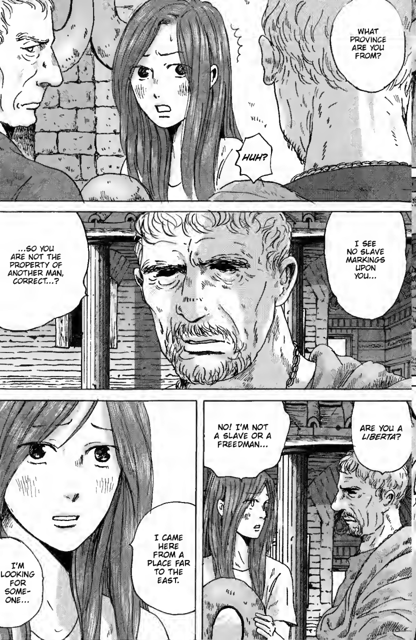

ON CVRRIT IN AVLA
THIS LOOKS LIKE THE "BATHING MANNERS" POSTERS IN JAPANESE PUBLIC BATHS.
"NO RUNNING IN THE BATH."
COULD THIS MEAN...LUCIUS COPIED WHAT HE SAW IN JAPAN...?
...OR AM I READING TOO DEEP INTO THIS!?
IT'S SO...UN-ROMAN.
......
OUTSIDE...

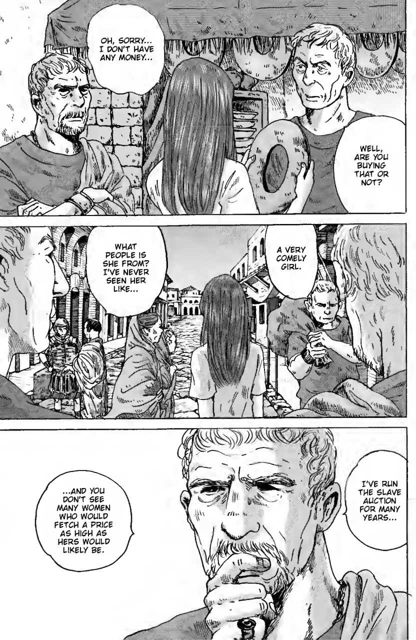


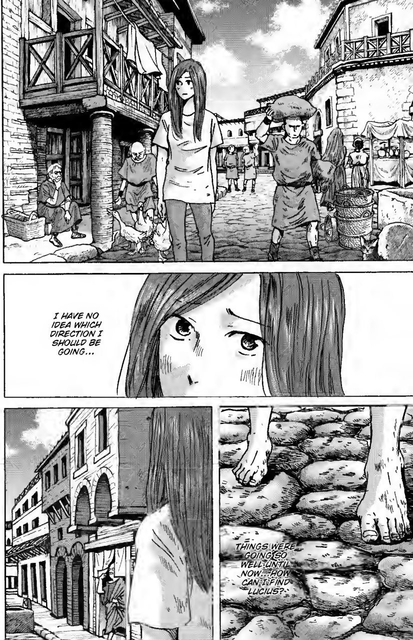

......
THIS IS INCREDIBLE...
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...
THE LOOK OF THE TOWN AND THE PEOPLE...
ガラ
GARA (RATTLE)
ガラガラ
GARA
GARA
THIS IS BAIAE, TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO...

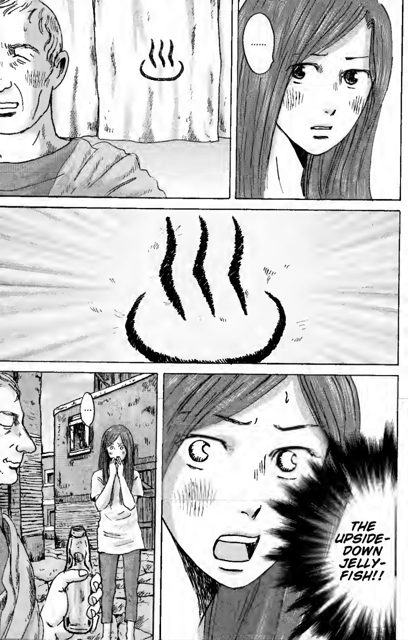

...
IS THIS...?
AHA! NOT FAMILIAR WITH THAT?

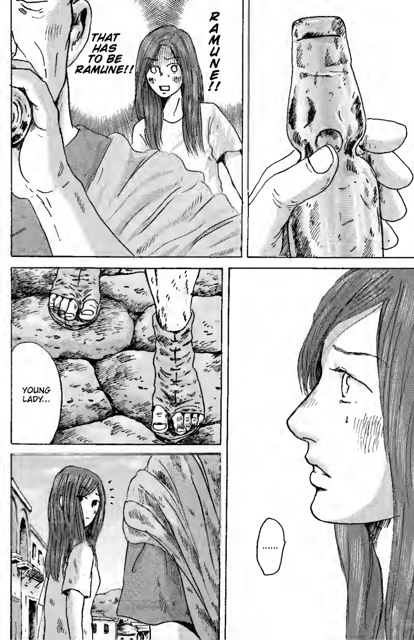

SEE, YOU PUT IT OVER YOUR HEAD LIKE THIS...
...WHICH MAKES IT MUCH EASIER TO WASH YOUR HAIR!
......
......
IT'S... A SHAMPOO HAT...
WHERE!? WHERE IS THE MAN WHO DESIGNED THIS!?
UH...I WOULDN'T KNOW THAT...
......
......
...I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU AROUND BEFORE...

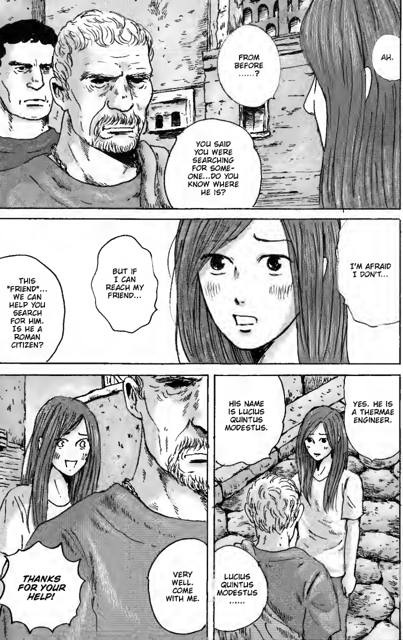

WHAT PROVINCE ARE YOU FROM?
HUH?
I SEE NO SLAVE MARKINGS UPON YOU...
...SO YOU ARE NOT THE PROPERTY OF ANOTHER MAN, CORRECT...?
ARE YOU A *LIBERTA*?
NO! I'M NOT A SLAVE OR A FREEDMAN...
I CAME HERE FROM A PLACE FAR TO THE EAST.
I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE...

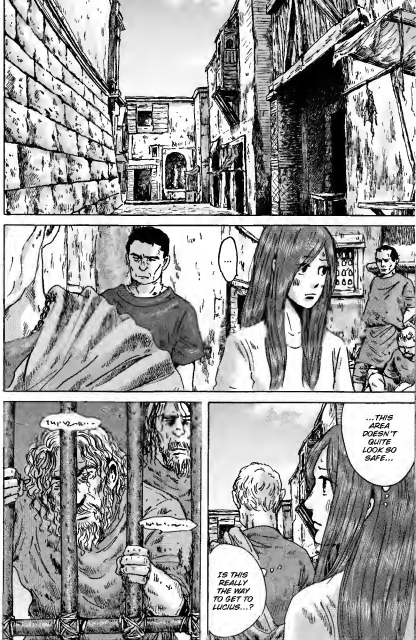

WELL, ARE YOU BUYING THAT OR NOT?
OH, SORRY... I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY...
A VERY COMELY GIRL.
WHAT PEOPLE IS SHE FROM? I'VE NEVER SEEN HER LIKE...
I'VE RUN THE SLAVE AUCTION FOR MANY YEARS...
...AND YOU DON'T SEE MANY WOMEN WHO WOULD FETCH A PRICE AS HIGH AS HERS WOULD LIKELY BE.

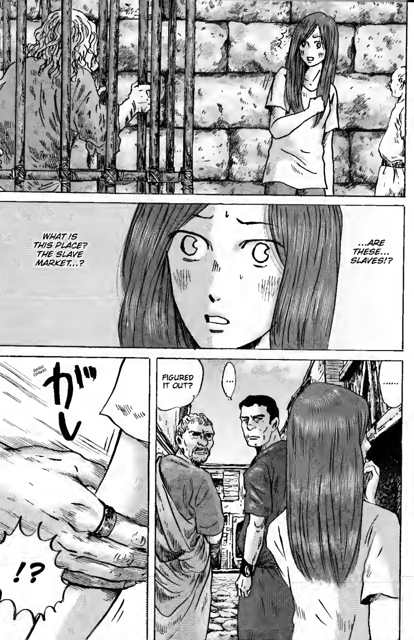

I HAVE NO IDEA WHICH DIRECTION I SHOULD BE GOING...
THINGS WERE GOING SO WELL UNTIL NOW... HOW CAN I FIND LUCIUS?

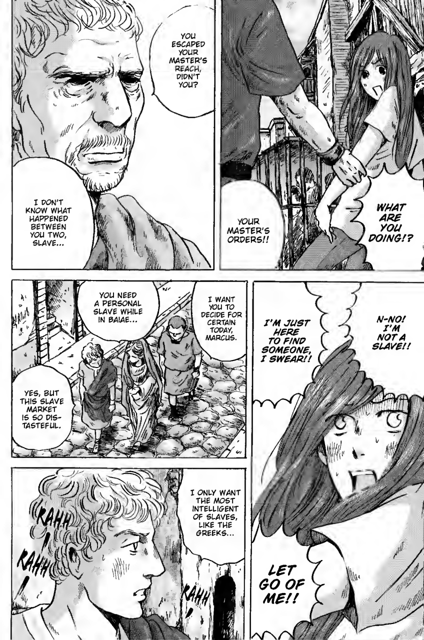

......
...
THE UPSIDE-DOWN JELLY-FISH!!

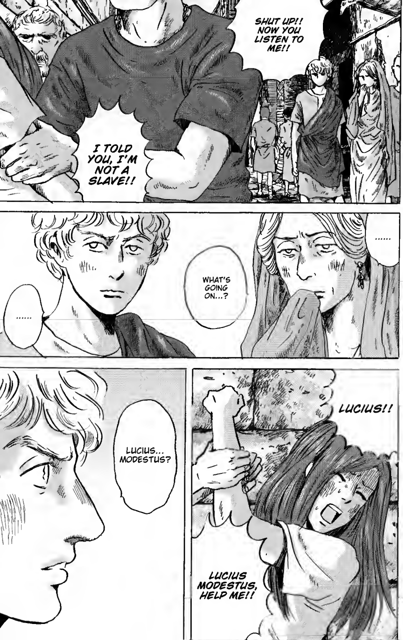

RAMUNE!!
THAT HAS TO BE RAMUNE!!
......
YOUNG LADY...

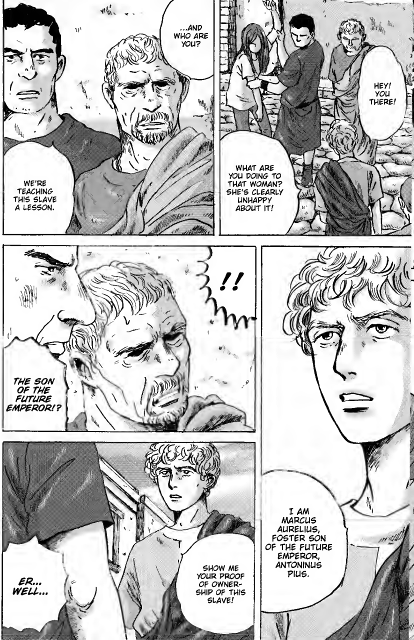

AH.
FROM BEFORE ......?
YOU SAID YOU WERE SEARCHING FOR SOMEONE...DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS?
I'M AFRAID I DON'T...
BUT IF I CAN REACH MY FRIEND...
THIS "FRIEND"... WE CAN HELP YOU SEARCH FOR HIM. IS HE A ROMAN CITIZEN?
YES. HE IS A THERMAE ENGINEER.
HIS NAME IS LUCIUS QUINTUS MODESTUS.
LUCIUS QUINTUS MODESTUS ......
VERY WELL. COME WITH ME.
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

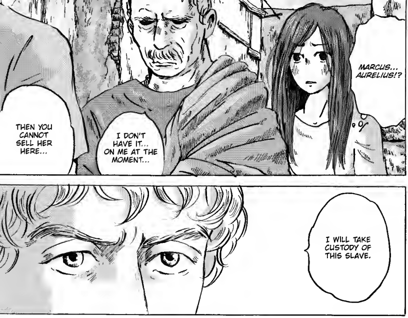

…
…THIS AREA DOESN'T QUITE LOOK SO SAFE…
IS THIS REALLY THE WAY TO GET TO LUCIUS…?

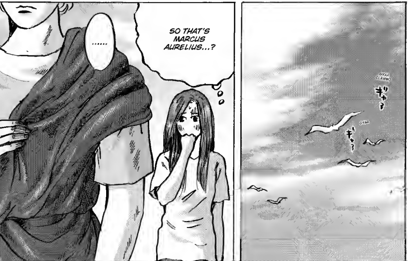

...ARE THESE... SLAVES!?
WHAT IS THIS PLACE? THE SLAVE MARKET...?
......
...
FIGURED IT OUT?
ガし
GASHI (GRAB)
!?

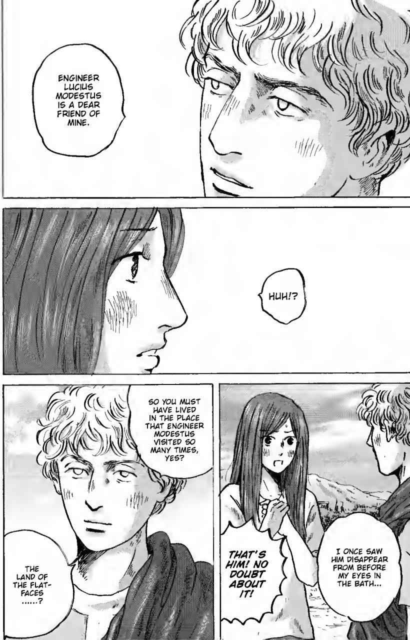

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
YOUR MASTER'S ORDERS!!
YOU ESCAPED YOUR MASTER'S REACH, DIDN'T YOU?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU TWO, SLAVE...
N-NO! I'M NOT A SLAVE!!
I'M JUST HERE TO FIND SOMEONE, I SWEAR!!
LET GO OF ME!!
I WANT YOU TO DECIDE FOR CERTAIN TODAY, MARCUS.
YOU NEED A PERSONAL SLAVE WHILE IN BAIAE...
YES, BUT THIS SLAVE MARKET IS SO DISTASTEFUL.
I ONLY WANT THE MOST INTELLIGENT OF SLAVES, LIKE THE GREEKS...
RAHH
RAHH
RAHH

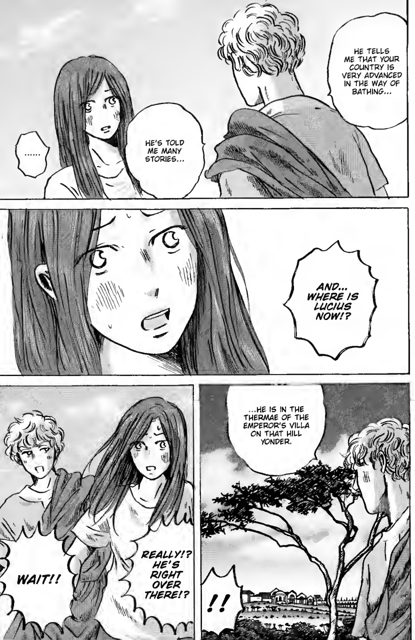

SHUT UP!! NOW YOU LISTEN TO ME!!
I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT A SLAVE!!
……
WHAT'S GOING ON…?
……
LUCIUS!!
LUCIUS MODESTUS, HELP ME!!
LUCIUS… MODESTUS?

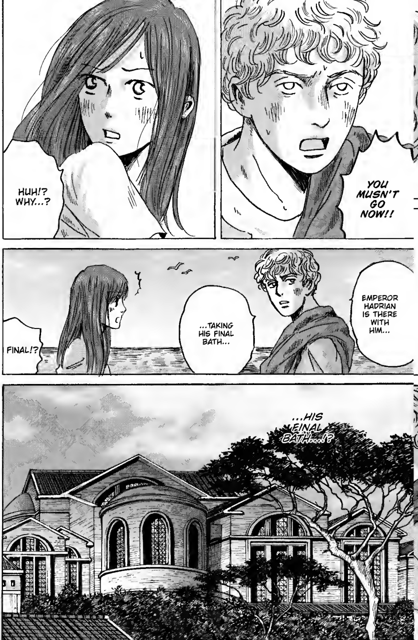

HEY! YOU THERE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO THAT WOMAN? SHE'S CLEARLY UNHAPPY ABOUT IT!
...AND WHO ARE YOU?
WE'RE TEACHING THIS SLAVE A LESSON.
I AM MARCUS AURELIUS, FOSTER SON OF THE FUTURE EMPEROR, ANTONINUS PIUS.
!!
THE SON OF THE FUTURE EMPEROR!?
SHOW ME YOUR PROOF OF OWNERSHIP OF THIS SLAVE!
ER... WELL...


MARCUS... AURELIUS!?
I DON'T HAVE IT... ON ME AT THE MOMENT...
THEN YOU CANNOT SELL HER HERE...
I WILL TAKE CUSTODY OF THIS SLAVE.

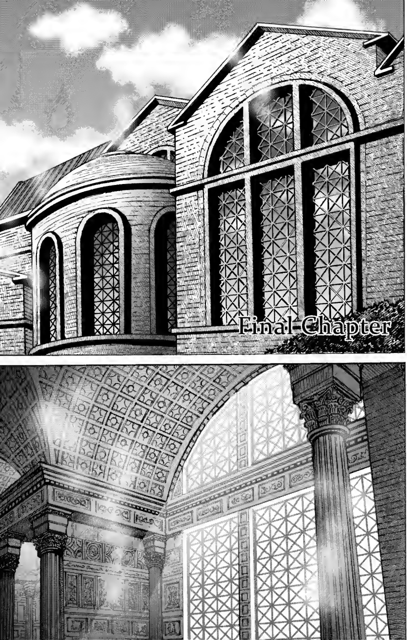

GYAA (CAWW) ギャァ
GYAA ギャァ
SO THAT'S MARCUS AURELIUS...?
......

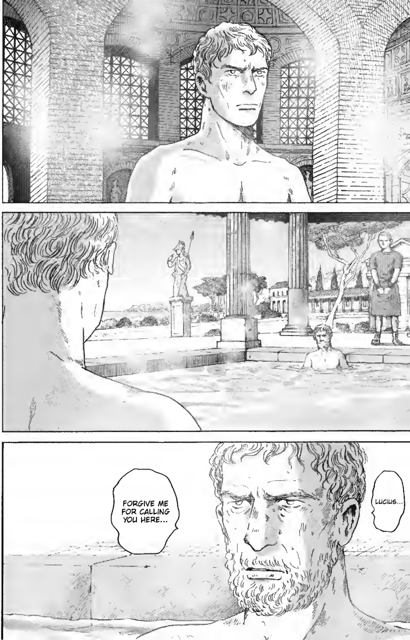

ENGINEER LUCIUS MODESTUS IS A DEAR FRIEND OF MINE.
HUH!?
I ONCE SAW HIM DISAPPEAR FROM BEFORE MY EYES IN THE BATH...
THAT'S HIM! NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!
SO YOU MUST HAVE LIVED IN THE PLACE THAT ENGINEER MODESTUS VISITED SO MANY TIMES, YES?
THE LAND OF THE FLAT-FACES ......?

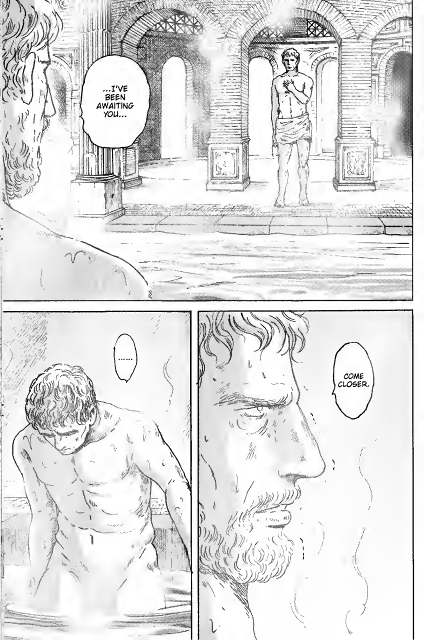

HE TELLS ME THAT YOUR COUNTRY IS VERY ADVANCED IN THE WAY OF BATHING...
HE'S TOLD ME MANY STORIES...
......
AND... WHERE IS LUCIUS NOW!?
...HE IS IN THE THERMAE OF THE EMPEROR'S VILLA ON THAT HILL YONDER.
!!
REALLY!? HE'S RIGHT OVER THERE!?
WAIT!!

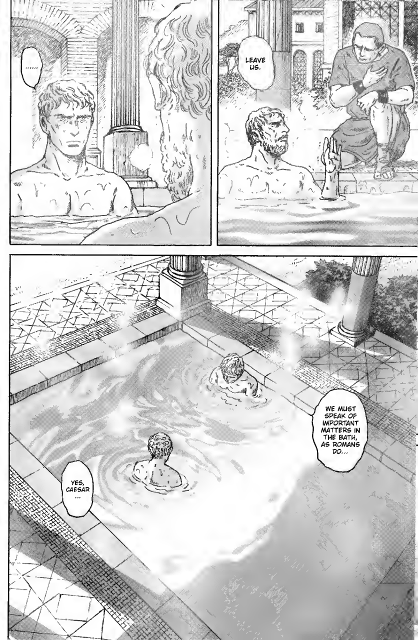

YOU MUSN'T GO NOW!!
HUH!? WHY...?
EMPEROR HADRIAN IS THERE WITH HIM...
...TAKING HIS FINAL BATH...
FINAL!?
...HIS FINAL BATH...!?

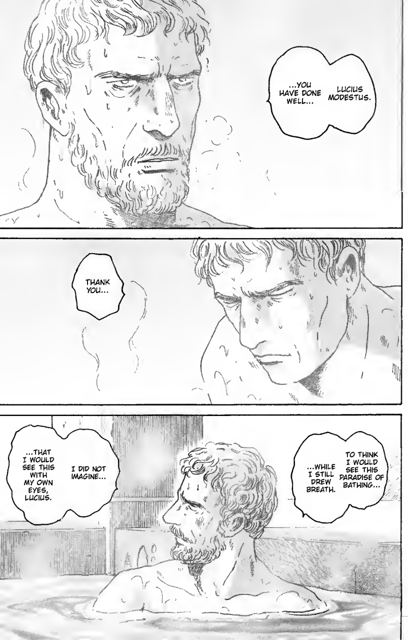
Final Chapter

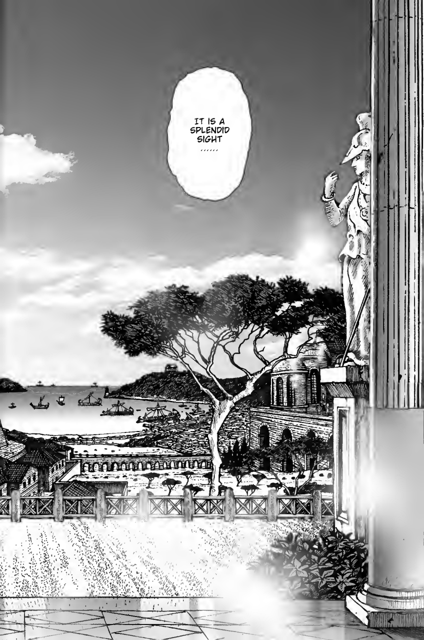


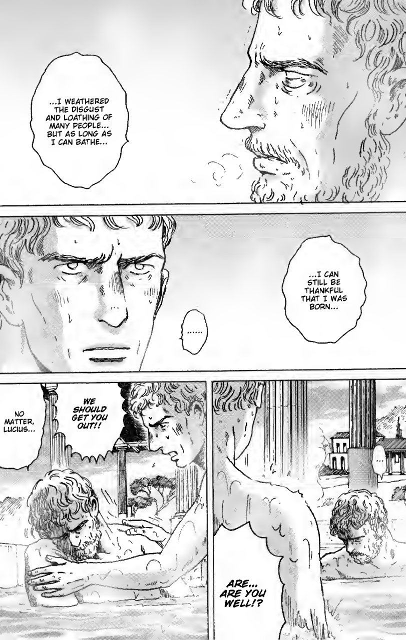

LUCIUS...
FORGIVE ME FOR CALLING YOU HERE...

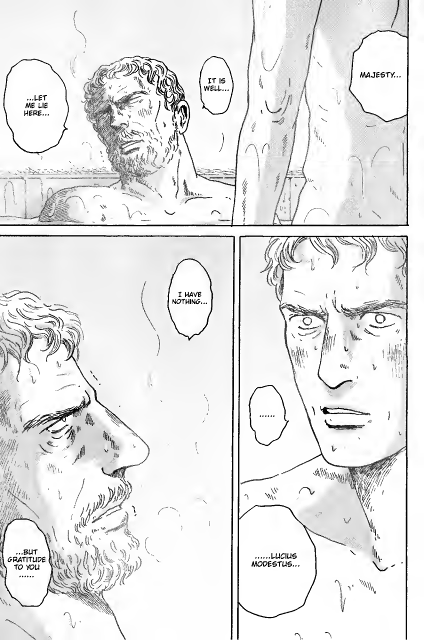

...I'VE BEEN AWAITING YOU...
COME CLOSER.
......

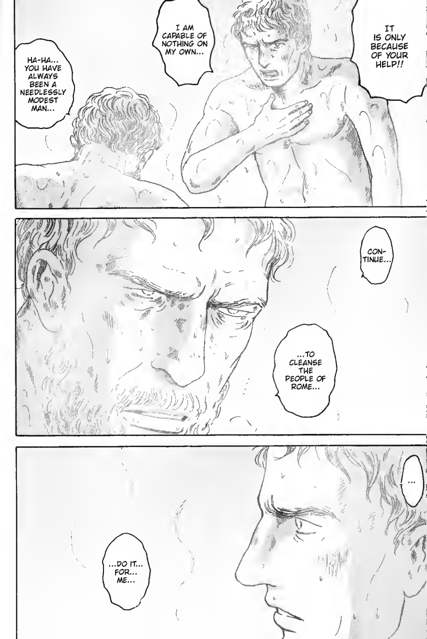

LEAVE US.
......
WE MUST SPEAK OF IMPORTANT MATTERS IN THE BATH, AS ROMANS DO...
YES, CAESAR...

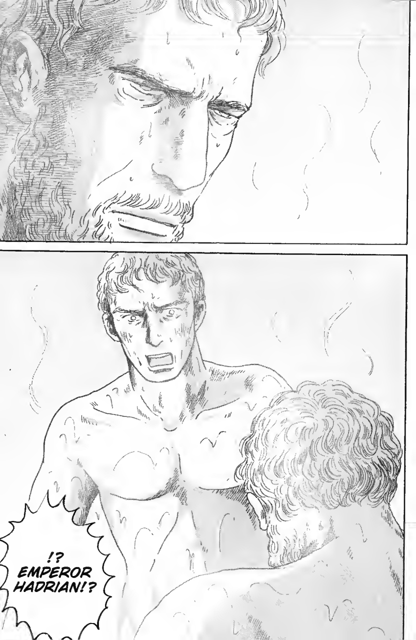

...YOU HAVE DONE WELL... LUCIUS MODESTUS.
THANK YOU...
TO THINK I WOULD SEE THIS PARADISE OF BATHING... ...WHILE I STILL DREW BREATH.
I DID NOT IMAGINE... ...THAT I WOULD SEE THIS WITH MY OWN EYES, LUCIUS.

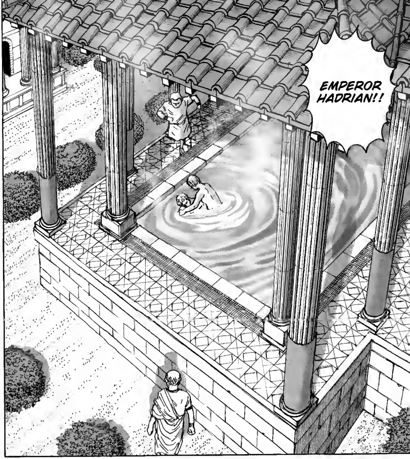

IT IS A SPLENDID SIGHT ......

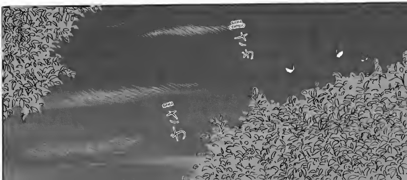

...I WEATHERED THE DISGUST AND LOATHING OF MANY PEOPLE... BUT AS LONG AS I CAN BATHE...
...I CAN STILL BE THANKFUL THAT I WAS BORN...
......
...
ARE... ARE YOU WELL!?
WE SHOULD GET YOU OUT!!
NO MATTER, LUCIUS...

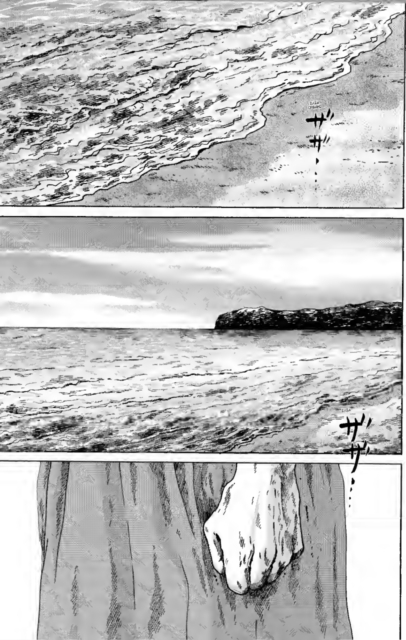

MAJESTY...
IT IS WELL...
...LET ME LIE HERE...
......
......LUCIUS MODESTUS...
I HAVE NOTHING...
...BUT GRATITUDE TO YOU ......

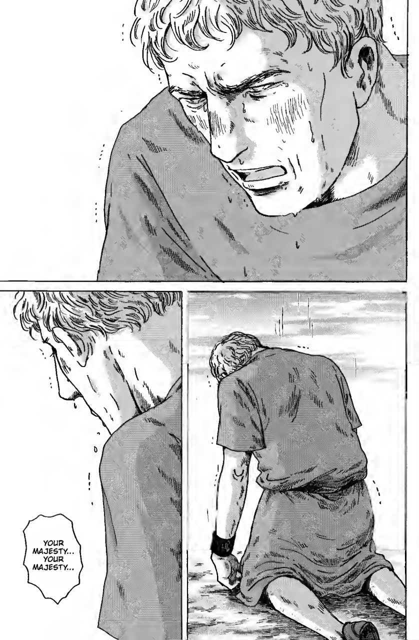

IT IS ONLY BECAUSE OF YOUR HELP!!
I AM CAPABLE OF NOTHING ON MY OWN...
HA-HA... YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A NEEDLESSLY MODEST MAN...
CONTINUE...
...TO CLEANSE THE PEOPLE OF ROME...
...
...DO IT... FOR... ME...

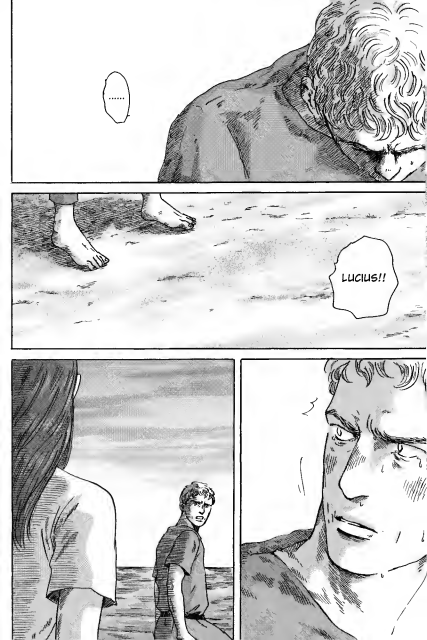

!? EMPEROR HADRIAN!?

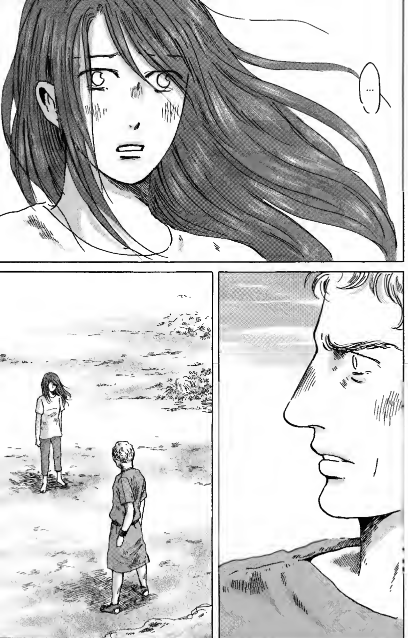

EMPEROR HADRIAN!!

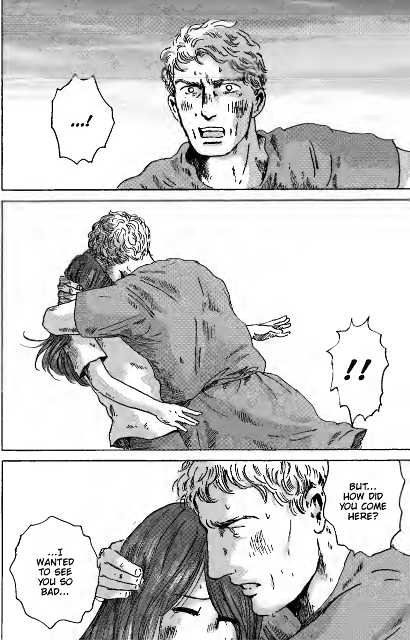

SAWA (SWISH)
さわ
SAWA
さわ

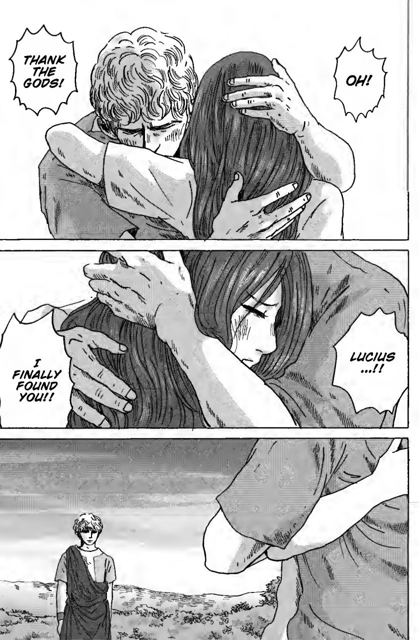

ZAZA (FSHH)
ザザ…
ZAZA
ザザ…

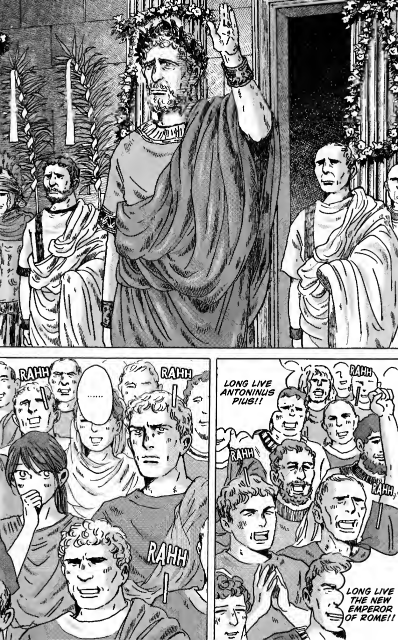

YOUR MAJESTY... YOUR MAJESTY...

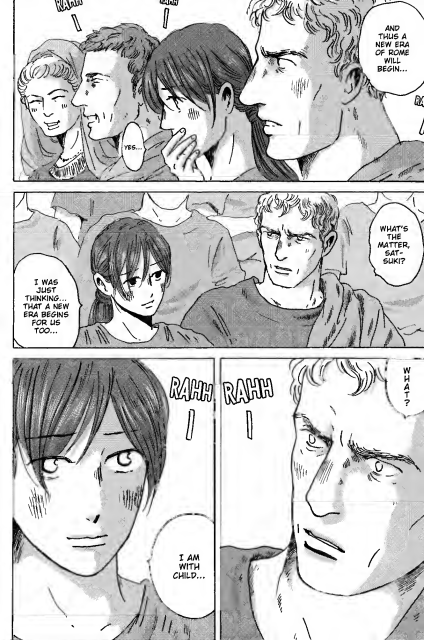

……
LUCIUS!!

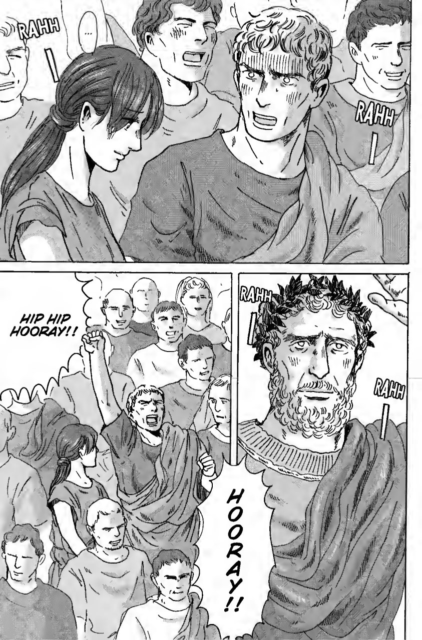


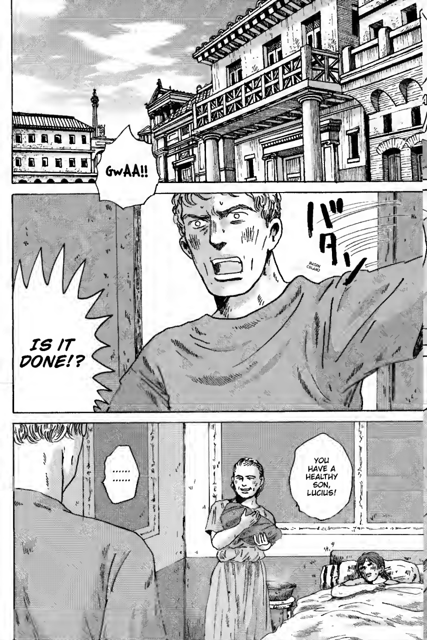

...!
!!
BUT... HOW DID YOU COME HERE?
...I WANTED TO SEE YOU SO BAD...

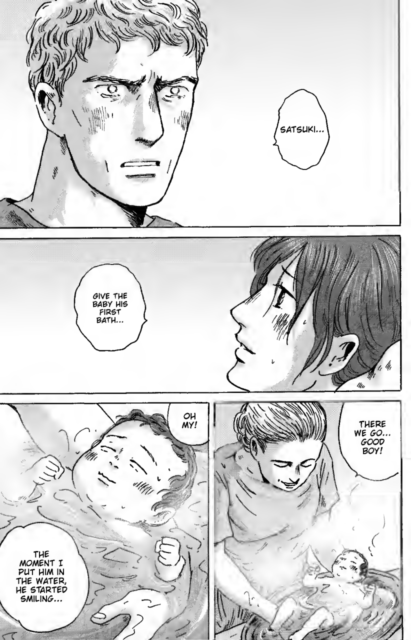

THANK THE GODS!
OH!
I FINALLY FOUND YOU!!
LUCIUS ...!!

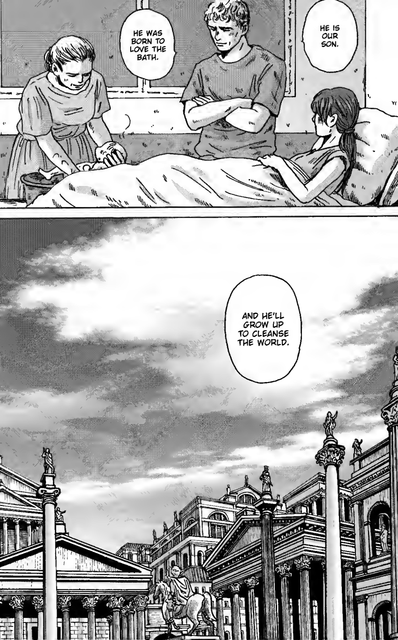

RAHH
LONG LIVE ANTONINUS PIUS!!
RAHH
RAHH
RAHH
LONG LIVE THE NEW EMPEROR OF ROME!!
RAHH
……
RAHH
RAHH


RA
AND THUS A NEW ERA OF ROME WILL BEGIN...
RAHH
RAHH
YES...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SATSUKI?
I WAS JUST THINKING... THAT A NEW ERA BEGINS FOR US TOO...
WHAT?
RAHH
RAHH
I AM WITH CHILD...


RAHH
...
RAHH
RAHH
RAHH
HIP HIP HOORAY!!
HOORAY!!


GwAA!!
バタン
BATAN (SLAM)
IS IT DONE!?
YOU HAVE A HEALTHY SON, LUCIUS!
…… ……


SATSUKI...
GIVE THE BABY HIS FIRST BATH...
THERE WE GO... GOOD BOY!
OH MY!
THE MOMENT I PUT HIM IN THE WATER, HE STARTED SMILING...

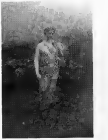

HE IS OUR SON.
HE WAS BORN TO LOVE THE BATH.
AND HE'LL GROW UP TO CLEANSE THE WORLD.

ROME & BATHS, THE LOVES OF MY LIFE

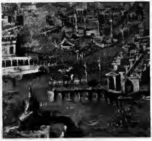
In the manga, Hadrian hires Lucius for a massive renovation of Baiae, which is a town on the Gulf of Naples rich with natural hot springs. I've always thought of this place as being the Italian equivalent of Atami or the Izu Peninsula, but in *A 15,000-kilometer Journey Through the Ancient Roman Empire*, author Alberto Angela compares its bustling atmosphere to modern-day Acapulco.

It's true that the Roman resort of Baiae, which was already renowned for centuries in Hadrian's time, does conjure images of Acapulco with its luxury baths and expensive villas for the rich and powerful. But coming from the natural spring bathing culture of Japan, it's hard to look at the ruined remains of this city and not be put in mind of domestic hotspots like Atami and Izu.

Baiae largely fell out of favor with the Romans as the empire declined, the practice of public bathing began to wane, and the unique pleasure of hot springs was no longer valued as it once was. Of course, there are still wealthy tourists today seeking out stylish hot spring regions for rest and relaxation, and many divers come to see the ruins that have sunk beneath the waves of the gulf. But to the native Italians, this place is not as prized as the resorts of Costa Smeralda in Sardinia or Rimini on the Adriatic Sea, and the entire Naples region is sadly seen as less than safe these days, so the tourism is thinner than it must have been in ancient times.



Part of Baiae that has sunken into the bay.



The surface of a bottle depicting Baiae in its heyday.

However, given my distaste for massive crowds during holidays, I find the quiet and tranquil air of present-day Baiae to be a blessing that I hope lasts for years to come. The tricky part was finding a proper mental recreation of Roman Baiae to draw within the story.

A visit to this area today provides nothing but some extremely weathered ruins in far worse shape than others to be found around Italy. Some glass bottles carved with the scenery of the time have been excavated, but that's about the extent of our knowledge of what Baiae was like. An internet search of possible town layouts or other concrete details turned up nothing, leaving me with only my imagination. Ultimately, I was able to call upon the help of a veteran manga artist friend of mine, who helped me bring Baiae and the vista from Hadrian's dying bath to the page.

History tells us that Hadrian did indeed pass away at his villa in Baiae, but we have no way of knowing his condition or state of mind at the time. But from the moment that I decided the story of *Thermae Romae* should conclude with the death of Hadrian, I could not imagine any ending for him other than a peaceful gaze over a beautiful view while he steeped in the bath.

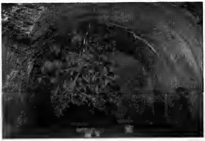
Human life begins with the baby's first cleansing bath, so the ideal ending would take place in water to mirror that. Perhaps we Japanese understand best the Romans' love of bathing and hot springs, and the invaluable influence of the bath over human life.

Well, I believe a heartful word of thanks is owed to you, dear reader, for graciously joining me through this final volume without giving up.

The current state of an ancient Roman thermae.

I started this story as the result of a long life of travel abroad, spending years and years in places where I could not enjoy a proper bath no matter how much I wanted one, then finally visiting countless ruins of public baths throughout Europe and the Middle East and having to swallow my resentment and longing: "Damn it, why can't these baths still be around today?" At the time, I had absolutely no thoughts of it becoming a long-term story. It started as a one-off short story, then turned into a serial that I suspected would last two volumes at best. The fact that it reached six in total can only be ascribed to the incredible support of the readers.

I did my best to accept all the unfathomable things that came along with it: the awards, the foreign editions, the film, and the animated series. But while creating a hit manga is like "winning the lottery" or a "dream come true," it carries with it many vicious responsibilities that one never considers in her ordinary life. As a media-averse and promotionally uncooperative human being who might as well have tried to be a modern-day Kiyoshi Yamashita, these circumstances were difficult to bear. Perhaps (in my own selfish interpretation) creating a story on the grand scale of ancient Rome requires an equivalent amount of physical and mental energy. I've recounted many anecdotes of my recent life in blog essays such as "*The Battle of Thermae*" and "*The Lisbon Diaries*," so readers eager for the messy details of my Thermae-centric life can find them there.



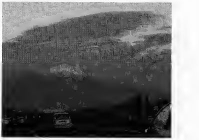
A fig tree growing from the ceiling of an ancient bath.

ROME & BATHS, THE LOVES OF MY LIFE vol.23

My interest in the Romans came about when I studied the Renaissance and art history at an art school in Florence, and this background became a major support to my eventual career as a manga artist decades later. Of course, the manga in your hands now would not have been possible without the help of a great many people and mountains of resource books. I was planning to list them all in a proper bibliography, but alas, at the moment I'm writing this afterword, my books are packed in boxes on a ship from America to my new home in Italy, and I'm unable to provide a proper inventory. I hope to be able to share the titles with all of you at some point in the future.

This brings the story of the bath-time-traveling ancient Roman to a close. To any upset readers wondering, "What about Satsuki's grandpa? What about Hanako? What about the other people of Ito?" I hope to wrap up their stories as well when the timing is right. Please bear with me until that time comes.

May you all enjoy a life filled with the leisure of the bath...



Mt. Vesuvius, looking every bit as stately as Mt. Fuji.

THERMÆ

ROMÆ

FINIS

Research Assistance:
Beppi Chiuppani
Satoru Sakai

Art Assistance:
Shunsuke Ichibashi
Yumi Nagashima
Satoru Kiyota
Sansuke Yamada
Minako Saitou
Youko Hayashida
Yoshiyasu Tamura
Gentarou Inuyama
T

Very "steamy" thanks from the author!!

And the
greatest of
gratitude
to all of
you who
continue
to love the
art of the
bath!!

Reference
Assistance:
Ito Hot Spring
Tourism
Association,
Hot springs regions
throughout the
nation,
Public baths &
super-baths,
TOTO Showroom...

Editors:
Katsuhiko
Okumura
Yoshinori Iwai
Kaori Aoki

TRANSLATION NOTES

TITLE

Thermae. The Latin term for "bath." In usage it corresponds to the large public bathhouses shown in the manga, while individual baths found in the homes of the rich and powerful were called *balneae*.

JAPANESE HONORIFICS

no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.
-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.
sama: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.
-chan: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.
-senpai: A suffix used to address upperclassmen or more experienced coworkers.
-sensei: A respectful term for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals.

PAGE 16

Dokudami: The Japanese name for *Houttuynia cordata*, commonly known as "chameleon plant," an herbaceous plant found in Eastern Asia. Dokudami tea is known for cleansing the body of toxins.

PAGE 20

Sea bream: Known as *tai* in Japanese, sea bream is served on New Year's Day and at "special" occasions. It is often remarked that tai is part of the word *medetai* (auspicious, happy) and is therefore considered a good omen.

PAGE 90

Paestum: A Greco-Roman city with several impressive temples built around the fifth and sixth centuries BC that are still partially intact today.

PAGE 161

Apicius: A Roman gourmet from the first century AD, he is often erroneously credited as the author of a famous Roman cookbook named Apicius that contains hundreds of recipes of the day.

PAGE 192

Capitoline: Capitoline Hill is one of the seven hills of Rome. The Capitolium was a famous and lavish temple on Capitoline Hill in which the "Capitoline Triad" were worshipped, a trio of supreme gods in the Roman pantheon: Jupiter, Minerva, and Juno. Minerva in particular was the goddess of wisdom, the arts ,and warfare, and the daughter of Jupiter.

PAGE 231

LDJ: Much as in American politics, Japan is dominated by two major parties. The Jiminto (Liberal Democratic Party or LDP) is, contrary to the name, a conservative party that has largely been in control for decades, while the Minshuto (Democratic Party of Japan, DPJ) is the more liberal minority party, though it recently found success as the ruling party for a few years. Numerous writers in Japan have used the term Minjito (which might as well be a composite of the two) as a fictional party in works of political fiction so as to avoid direct references to the actual parties, hence the generic use of the acronym "LDJ."

PAGE 246

Strigil: The Roman implement for scrubbing dirt off of the body.

PAGE 248

Dacia: A province on the northeast border of the Roman empire that covered areas of modern-day Romania.

PAGE 260

Ligula: A special type of spoon that was more suitable for scooping or scraping than ladling out liquid (like the modern spoon) due to its tiny bowl at the end.

PAGE 292

Aelia Capitolina: The city that Hadrian built on the ruins of Jerusalem in an attempt to keep the Jews from resettling the city. This move enraged the Jews and led to the Bar Kokhba revolt, after which Hadrian sent a fresh army to neutralize the rebellion again.

PAGE 372

Kiyoshi Yamashita: An artist who wandered all over Japan, often wearing nothing but a vest, which earned him the nickname, "The Naked General." His unique style was to recreate scenes he had seen during his travels using nothing but torn strips of paper. A long-running TV series dramatizing his life helped bring the eccentric artist widespread fame throughout Japan.

THERMAE
ROMAE